SUNDAY
November 27, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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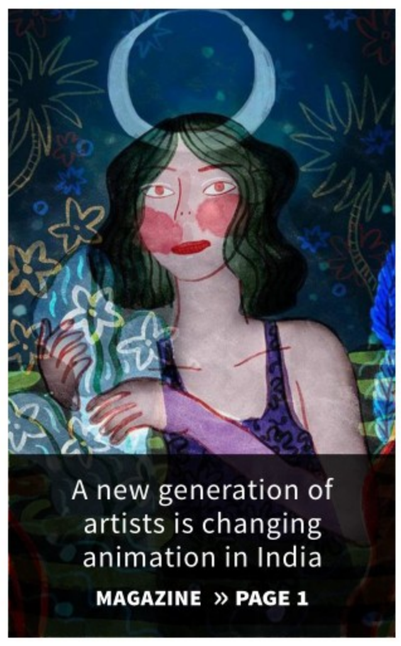
FRANCE ADVANCES

Mbappe brace powers the team into the round of 16

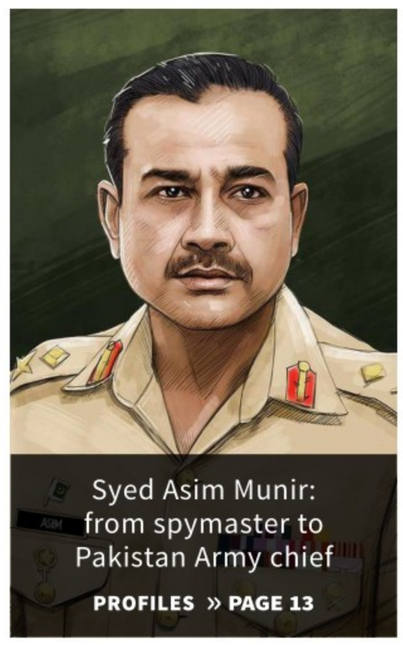
The defending champion surmounts Denmark's challenge, becomes the first to qualify for the knockout stage

SPORT» PAGE 15



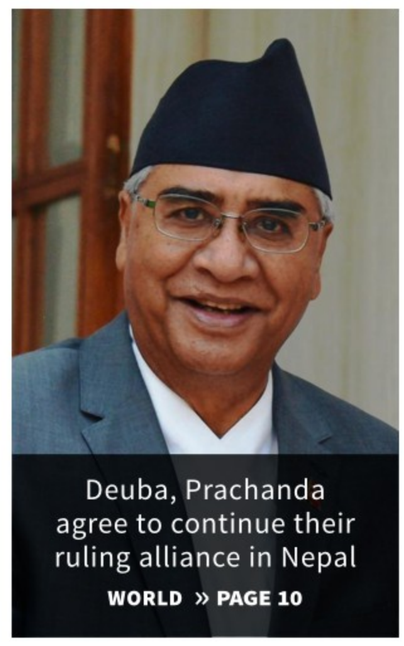
A new generation of artists is changing animation in India

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1



Syed Asim Munir: from spymaster to Pakistan Army chief

PROFILES » PAGE 13



Deuba, Prachanda agree to continue their ruling alliance in Nepal

WORLD » PAGE 10

Recreating sacred groves in north T.N.

Govt. has embarked on a project to bring back the rich diversity of this ancient tradition in some of the 1,500 temples under its jurisdiction

Green cushion: A tractor drilling a hole for planting saplings on land belonging to the Sri Manjaneeswarar Ayyanar temple at Kilputhupattu in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu. S.S. KUMAR

S. Prasad
VILLUPURAM

Once found in plenty across the country, sacred groves have shrunk in many places due to rampant encroachments, the spread of invasive species, and unfettered human interference.

"We had a lot of sacred groves, not only in South India, but also in the northeast," notes S. Theodore Baskaran, conservationist and former trustee of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India. "But many of them have been destroyed. Only a few are left, and these must be protected," he says.

In Tamil Nadu's arid northern Villupuram region, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Department, which administers 1,500 temples in the Villupuram and Kallakurichi districts, has embarked on a project to protect these forest patches by recreating sacred groves.

Along with nature enthusiasts and volunteers, the department has now launched a campaign to maintain and protect these fragile ecosystems, and recreate them on temple lands.

"Every temple has a *Sthala Vriksham* (sacred plant) and that denotes the importance given for plants and trees in the ancient days. A lot of these forest patches are found in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Puducherry, and the coromandel coast. While they are being protected in a few temples, the groves have been shrinking in size in others due to anthropogenic activities and the need of the hour is to protect them," a senior official of the HR&CE Department, told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Birth certificate to be made mandatory for jobs, driving licence, passport, voting right

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government proposes to make birth certificate a mandatory document for almost every sphere of life – admission in educational institutions, inclusion in the voter list, appointment in Central and State government jobs, issue of driving licence and passport – according to a draft Bill to amend the Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969.

The Bill is likely to be tabled in the Winter Session of Parliament that commences on December 7.

The proposed amendment also covers death certificates and makes it mandatory for hospitals to provide a copy of all death certificates, stating the cause of death, to the local registrar apart from the relative of the deceased.

The database on births will be linked to electoral rolls for automatic inclusion.

The centrally stored data on births and deaths will be updated in real time without any need for human interface, leading to addition and deletion from the electoral roll when an individual turns 18, and after death, respectively.

Though registration of births and deaths is already compulsory under the RBD Act, 1969 and violating it is a punishable offence, the government intends to improve compliance by making the registration mandatory to access basic services.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

NEARBY

In 15 years, grain production up by 40.5 lakh tonnes

BENGALURU
Karnataka's foodgrain production, including rice, wheat, coarse cereals, and pulses, has increased by 40.55 lakh tonnes — from 1.049 crore tonnes to 1.45 crore tonnes — in the last 15 years, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States (2022). » Page 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Selfie turns fatal for four students

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Four girls from Belagavi slipped and drowned, while allegedly taking a selfie at a waterfall in Maharashtra on Saturday.

The incident occurred at Kitwad Falls, located close to the border of Belagavi taluk on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased have been identified as Asiya Muzawar, 17, Kudshia Hassan Patel, 20, Rukhsar Bhisti, 20, and Tasmia, all students of a madrassa at Kamat Galli in Belagavi.

In all, 40 students went on a trip to Kitwad Falls on Saturday. The tragedy reportedly occurred when they were taking selfies in a group standing close to the waterfall. Five students lost their balance and fell into the water. As none of them, including those standing by, knew how to swim, the girls could not be rescued, sources said. However, one of the girls was somehow rescued and rushed to the hospital.

Voter data 'theft' case: Close to a lakh additions, deletions to be scrutinised in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Commissioners who have been appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to oversee the purity of electoral rolls in three Assembly constituencies in the city may have to sanitise more than 35,000 additions and over 64,000 deletions in the list.

Following serious allegations theft of voter data by an NGO – Chilume Educational and Rural Development Trust – and reports of private individuals allegedly using identity cards of booth level officials, the ECI, on Friday, appointed three senior IAS officers for overseeing and ensuring purity of electoral rolls in three constituencies: Shivajinagar, Chickpet and Mahadevapura.

Sources said, "As per the ECI's directions, complete electoral rolls with additions and deletions will be shared with recognised political parties so that they can file claims and objections. Let them verify independently at the booth level. The officials concerned will also independently verify additions and deletions at the booth level. If someone's name is wrongly deleted, we will reach out to the citizen concerned and request him or her to submit form 6 to take corrective measures. In addition to this, the general public can also check their names in the electoral rolls. In case of any discrepancies, such grievances will be attended to."

The official said that in future, a robust mechanism will be put in place to make verification and approval without giving scope for wrongdoings or mistakes.

Purity of electoral rolls

Constituency	Additions*	Deletions*
Shivajinagar	5,210	14,679
Chickpet	4,343	16,231
Mahadevapura	25,535	33,376

*Additions and deletions from final electoral roll (January 13, 2022) to draft electoral roll (November 9, 2022)

Source: BBMP

100% check

In a release issued on Friday, the ECI had stated that there will be 100% check of the deletions and additions in the electoral rolls after January 1, 2022, in these three constituencies.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

Leafy wonderland: The foliage of tall trees at Nishat Garden in Srinagar creates a warm glow.

Chinars work the autumn magic

Tourists to Kashmir can bask in the glowing yellows, oranges and reds that envelop the landscape during the season

Nissar Ahmad
nissar.ahmad@thehindu.co.in

Autumn in Kashmir from mid-September till the end of November is a riot of the warmest colours that envelope the whole landscape before the silent white of winter takes over. The autumnal colours bestow a magical look to the Valley.

The tree that is at the core of the colour extravaganza in the Valley is locally known as Harud (Chinar in Hindi and Bouen in Kashmiri). *Platanus orientalis* has been a part of Kashmir's landscape for several centuries now, going back to the Mughal era.

True to its name Chinar, which in Persian means flame, fire or a blaze, the tree drapes itself in colours from green to gold, to reddish orange, before the leaves cascade to the ground in late autumn, bequeathing a carpet of golden-brown to gardens, footpaths and streets across the Kashmir Valley.

Additionally, the distinct yellow of poplar trees planted almost everywhere in Kashmir soothes the souls of the local community and visitors. A large number of tourists visit in October just to witness the Valley wearing this mellow sheen.

The fallen leaves are sometimes burnt to make coal, which is used in traditional *kangris* (fire pots) that keep people warm in the bone-numbing winter.

Wide angle: Tourists click photographs at Pari Mahal in Srinagar.

Play time: Sliding into leaf litter can be fun.

Velvety tones: Colourful kurtas on sale at a garden in Srinagar.

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INBRIEF

Spreading the message of pluralism through food

To commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution on Saturday, Bahutva Karnataka, on Saturday, organised Bahutva Bhojana with the theme of respecting food culture and celebrating pluralism. Advocate Vinay Srinivasa from Bahutva Karnataka said before independence and the adoption of the Constitution, people were discriminated against even in matters of food. "So on this day, we celebrate Constitution Day by eating together with the motive of pluralism," he said. Du. Saraswati, activist and author, said healthy food is the utmost necessity for our health and India is known for different food cultures, cuisine, and food techniques.

2.56 lakh candidates to take CAT today

The Common Admission Test (CAT) 2022, which is the gateway for the admission to management courses at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), will be held on Sunday across the country. As per the details available from IIM-Bangalore, a total of 2,56,885 candidates have registered for this year's CAT. The exam will be held between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. Entry time is 11 a.m. and the gates will be closed at 12.15 p.m. The candidates are not allowed to carry any gadgets, wallets, watches, calculators, papers, goggles, mobile phones, etc., Wearing any metal ornament, including jewellery, will not be allowed at the test centre. COVID-19 protocols will be followed and body temperature of the candidates will be checked at the entrance.

Bengaluru student comes first in hackathon

Shreya Narayan, a student of Bangalore Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, took part in the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022 held at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, recently and won the first place with a cash prize of ₹3 lakh, said a release.

Residents campaign for task force to contain animal cruelty

Residents and animal activists from Bellandur have launched a campaign to set up a local task force to contain animal cruelty. This was following a tragic incident where a female dog and her two pups were allegedly tortured and killed after which they were dumped in lower Ambalipura lake on Saturday. Soubir Bose, a resident of Sarjapur road, found the injured dog writhing in pain while her two pups were tortured, killed, and thrown into the lake. Mr. Bose rushed the dog to a hospital, but she succumbed on the way. The Joint Task Force between the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board, the Animal Husbandry under BBMP, the Society for the Prevention of the Cruelty to Animals and the police is crucial to the success of such cases," Chitra AmzarewaleSapre, an animal activist, said.

Two held for poaching

Forest Department personnel at Nagarahole tiger reserve nabbed two persons who had poached a deer and were smuggling the meat near Metikuppe village bordering the forests on Saturday. Based on a tip-off, the personnel challenged a gang of five who were trying to smuggle out the dead deer but three managed to escape while two were nabbed. The accused were identified as Abhishek and Nehru Nayak.

Old AC buses still plying as KSRTC is yet to buy new ones

It's KSRTC's policy to remove AC buses that have run over 13 lakh km, but 17 continue to operate despite crossing 20 lakh km

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Premier services offered by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) have earned many accolades for the corporation. However, passengers are now demanding that the corporation should remove the old fleet of Airavat Club Class as it does not provide the experience that the tagline of this service – Sleep like a baby – promises.

Chandrakala S., who recently booked a ticket from Udupi to Bengaluru, said, "I booked a ticket in Club Class bus paying ₹970 from Udupi. The bus broke down near Mangaluru and passengers were shifted to another bus. The second bus too faced problems near Sakleshpur and passengers were shifted to yet another bus. It caused a lot of inconvenience for the passengers. Passengers pay hefty fare and KSRTC should provide good service."

Bad roads add to woes

Poor road condition, especially those connecting to coastal Karnataka, also adds to the poor travel experience of passengers. Time taken for travel has increased.

Chandrashekar Prabhu, another passenger said, "Few days ago, I booked a Club Class bus to Manipal. All the seats were booked from Bengaluru, after the bus crossed Sakleshpur, all of a sudden the window glass of the rear seat broke and fell. The conductor covered the window with a bedsheet. After the bus reached Mangaluru depot, the passengers were asked to shift to yet another bus. Crew of the bus blamed bad roads for broken glass."

The officials of the KSRTC admit that non-induction of new buses is the reason for running the old fleet. As per the policy, the corporation removes an AC bus after it has operated over 13 lakh km. But 17 AC buses (Volvo) are being operated despite crossing 20 lakh km. Around 50 buses have covered over 18 lakh km and 86 buses are operated for over 15 lakh km. The corporation has a fleet of 22 buses that are operated for over 13 lakh km. On other hand, 48% of the ordinary buses operated by the corporation have crossed 9 lakh km operations.

Rattling window panes

An official of the KSRTC said, "Passengers who travel in old AC buses often complain about rattling of window panes, rainwater leaking, AC not functioning, worn-out seats, and recliner seats not working, and many others. Those who occupy rear seats complain about engines making too much noise."

When contacted the MD of the KSRTC Anbu Kumar said that measures are being taken to procure new buses.

"The induction of new buses did not happen for a long time. It is very necessary for us to purchase all types of buses, including premier class service buses including AC sleeper and non-sleeper. We have received permission from the government to raise ₹220 crore to induct 600 non AC -buses and 20 AC buses. The scrutiny committee is evaluating the process. The existing fleet size is after regular maintenance work. We value the suggestion made by the passengers and we phase out old buses," he said.

2,000 buses needed

The official added that there is a need to procure around 2000 buses and that will be done in a phased manner. The KSRTC has a fleet size of 8,200 buses.

Passengers say the old Airavat Club Class buses do not provide the experience that the tagline of this service — Sleep like a baby — promises. FILE PHOTO

Wear and tear

Distance travelled	Number of AC buses (Volvo)
13 to 15 lakh km	22
15 to 18 lakh km	86
18 to 20 lakh km	50
Above 20 lakh km	17
TOTAL	175

Face masks no longer mandatory in Namma Metro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is not mandatory to wear a mask while travelling in the Namma Metro train.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Managing Director Anjum Parwez said that metro staff have been told not to insist that passengers wear masks while entering the stations or travelling in the metro.

'Metro staff have been told not to insist that passengers wear masks while entering the station or travelling in metro

"As per the State government guidelines, wearing masks is no longer mandatory. However, we advise people to wear them as a safety measure," he said.

Though the top official has come out with a statement clearing doubts about wearing masks inside metro stations, at some stations, security staff do insist on people wearing mask while screening them at the gate.

An official of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation said it is no longer mandatory to wear masks while travelling in city buses.

Worker killed as cement slab falls on him while digging for BWSSB sanitary line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old labourer was killed and another injured when a cement slab fell on them in Kengeri on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Chalapathy Perumalappa, 25, from Mulbagal, Kolar. Muniyappa, 45, who was buried under the stone slab and debris, was rescued.

According to the police, the two persons, along with others, were hired as daily wage labourers by a contractor to lay a sanitary line for the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Around 3 p.m., they dug up the public road and dumped the debris and mud on either side of the trench. The stone slab, lying on top of the mud, slipped and fell on them. The two were stuck under it and were buried, the police said.

Others rushed to their rescue and with the help of Fire and Emergency Services personnel, pulled the duo and shifted them to hospital, where the doctors declared Chalapathy as brought dead.

Kengeri police have taken up a case of death due to negligence against the contractor and investigations are on. The two workers had not been provided any safety gear nor they had taken any precautionary measures an eventuality, the police said.

The area in Kengeri where the incident happened on Saturday.

Man kills alcoholic son, surrenders before police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 65-year-old man allegedly bludgeoned his alcoholic son to death with a dumbbell, unable to bear the harassment from the latter, and surrendered before the police on the outskirts of the city on Friday.

The accused, Muniswamy, a resident of Devalapura on the outskirts of the city, is a construction labourer who was living with his wife and son, Tyagaraj, 38.

According to the police, Tyagaraj was also a labourer and a chronic alcoholic and used to come home drunk and harass his parents for money.

On Friday, the deceased came home drunk and created a ruckus demanding money.

Unable to bear the harassment, Muniswamy attacked his son with a dumbbell. Tyagraj died after sustaining a severe head injury. Muniswamy later went to the police station and surrendered himself, said the police.

Two burglars arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidyaranyapura police on Saturday arrested two house break-in thieves and recovered goods worth ₹6.8 lakh from them.

Ranjith, 27, and his associate Ajith, 25, were arrested for a house break-in theft reported a few days ago. The police recovered five bikes, three laptops, eight mobile phones, and gold valuables worth ₹1.3 lakh. The accused would identify locked houses and bikes parked outside houses and steal them.

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No.: SJICR/TS/101/2022-23 Date:26-11-2022

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for **supply of medical equipment** in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 29-11-2022** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **13-12-2022 up to 4-00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **05-12-2022 at 11-30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **14-12-2022 at 4-00 PM.**
4. **EMD**: as mentioned in the tender document
5. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

Aweksha unveils 2023 calendar dedicated to burn survivors

Shalini Kapat
BENGALURU

After months of suffering on a hospital bed, 38-year-old Thippamma survived an acid attack, allegedly by her husband, and became the bread-earner for her son and three daughters. "There was a time when my own children were scared of me," she recounted.

Sangeeta, 38, from Ballari, suffered burns after being set on fire allegedly by her husband for being an "extrovert".

Many burn victims shared their stories during a launch programme by Aweksha, a trust which has dedicated its 2023 annual year calendar for the survivors of burn attacks.

It is also a means to raise funds and make the voices of burn victims heard by the government and society at large, said the founder of the city-based trust

Fourteen survivors are part of the calendar along with their stories and achievements.

Aweksha, the Bengaluru-based trust working towards ending all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination, released the calendar in collaboration with Victoria Hospital and the Department of Social Sciences of St. Joseph's University on Saturday.

The survivors showed their gratitude to the team of doctors from Victoria Hospital and Aweksha, crediting them with helping them fight their battles, both physically and mentally.

To raise funds, voice

Donna Fernandez, founder of Aweksha, said the calendar is also a means to raise funds and make the voices of burn victims heard by the government and society at large.

Setting examples

The calendar was released by Sujata Rathod, director of Medical Education, who said: "Men should grow up with the attitude that everybody is equal."

She said survivors have set examples by portraying the true meaning of shakti (strength), dhairya (courage), and are independent by setting up their small businesses and a means to live on their own.

ZOO AUTHORITY OF KARNATAKA
Office of The Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Zoological Park, Kamalapur
HosapeteTq Vijayanagar Dist, Karnataka State.
Email: eddcfabvzp81@gmail.com Tel No: 08394-295289
Tender No: ABVZP/Beef/Tender/CR/117/2022-23
Dated: 24.11.2022

ITEMWISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Member Secretary, Executive Director and Deputy Conservator of Forest Department of Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) has published item wise Tender notification for **Supply of Fresh, Cleaned Beef** at Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Zoological Park, Kamalapur Conditions & regulations.

Indent No: ZAK/2022-23/IND440/Call-2. **Estimated Cost (in Rupees):** Rs. 62,05,966.00. **EMD (in Rupees):** Rs. 6,20,597.00.

Tender shall be submitted in e-procurement portal (https://eproc.Karnataka.gov.in (Dept.selection: Zoo Authority) last date for submission of tender is **02.12.2022** within **4.30 PM**. Opening of Technical bid on **03.12.2022** at **4.35 PM** and Financial bid on **05.12.2022** at **11.30 AM** Respectively.

More details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during office hours. Any amendment of modifications in tender notification will be published on e-procurement portal.

SD/- Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forest, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Zoological Park Kamalapur, Hospet Tq, Vijayanagar Dist.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/260/MCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:SEE(W&M)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-1/T-21,T-23 &-24 /2022-23/4289-93 Date:21.11.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation limited invites bids for second time from eligible bidders on Electronic mode for following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis**.

(1)KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/21 for Providing additional 1x8 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer along with additional 11kV switchgears at 66/11kV sub-station, **Shettihally** in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District, (KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9799/CALL-2).

(2)KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/23 for Providing additional 1x8 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at 66/11kV sub-station, **Malali** in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan Distinct (KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9801/CALL-2).

(3) KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/24 for Replacement of existing 1x8 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer along with providing additional 2 numbers of 11kV switchgears at 66/11kV sub-station, **Mattanavile** in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan Distinct (KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9802/CALL-2).

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl" or **https://eproc.Karnataka.gov.in** on or before **3.00 PM on 28.11.2022**. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission (W & M)Circle, KPTCL,
Prasarana Bhavan, 2nd Floor Santhepete, B.M. Road,
Hassan – 573201, Ph: 08172-250765.

Smile, please: A carpet of Chinar leaves makes for a lovely backdrop.

Quiet moments: Friends walk through the green, gold and orange of a park in Budgam.

Daily labour: Sweeping up the leaf litter can be quite a task.

Dust to dust: Dry leaves are heaped to burn for charcoal.

Good use: Charcoal from the burnt leaves is used in traditional *kangris* to keep warm.

S BG-BGE

Organ donation: Why can't adopted children be considered 'near relatives'?

NOTTO is set to discuss organ donation by adopted children with Apex Committee and Ministry of Law soon

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following the Karnataka High Court ruling that the government cannot discriminate against adopted sons when it comes to compassionate appointments, some doctors in Karnataka are now asking whether the same yardstick can be applied in terms of organ donation too.

Why cannot an adopted child get an organ from adopted parents and vice versa similar to spousal donation? This is the question being raised by many. As of now, the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue Act (THOTA), 1994, does not allow this. Although a few States are learnt to have raised the issue with the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), Karnataka's Organ Transplant Authorisation Committee has not come across any case seeking approval wherein an adopted child is involved.

NOTTO Director Krishan Kumar, who admitted that logically adopted children should also be included in the list of "near relatives", said the organisation will discuss the subject in the Apex Technical Committee and with the Director General of Health Services (DGHS). "Subsequently, we will bring it before the Ministry of Law and if there is concurrence we can consider amending the Act," he told *The Hindu*.

An adopted child in Karnataka is not considered a near relative as DNA fingerprinting and tissue typing is required.
GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

Sankaran Sundar, former chairman, Southern Chapter, Indian Society of Nephrology, who also heads the International Transplant Services at Manipal Hospitals, said an adopted child in Karnataka will not be considered a near relative as DNA fingerprinting and tissue typing is required. "The Authorisation Committee may give permission as we can prove affection but the point no one is answering is whether like spousal donation where only marriage certificate is enough and the spouse is considered a 'near' relative, can an adopted child also be considered as 'near' relative without approval from the Authorisation Committee," he said.

K.C. Gurudev, nephrologist and president of Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, argued that once someone is legally adopted, they are considered as first-degree relatives for all other legal procedures.

Need for caution

G.K. Venkatesh, former chairperson, State Authorisation Committee, said one should be careful to see when the adoption has happened. "There is a possibility that marriage/adoption may happen just for organ donation. We have seen a few such cases during my tenure. That is why the Act has such stringent rules," he said.

Stating that the only way out is to legalise unrelated transplants with strict monitoring, the doctor pointed out that the government monitors payment to donors in some countries. "But that may not be possible in India," he said.

H. Sudarshan Ballal, chairman of Manipal Hospitals, also emphasised that although donation by adopted children seems reasonable, there have to be checks and balances.

What the Act says

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissue Act (THOTA), 1994, defines who can donate organs without any legal formalities. "Near relatives" who are allowed to donate include parents, siblings, children, and spouses. A few years ago, grandparents were included too.

The first relatives are required to provide proof of their relationship to hospital-based authorisation committees by genetic testing and/or by legal documents. In the event of there being no first relatives, the recipient and donor are required to seek special permission from the government-appointed authorisation committee after proving that the motive of donation is purely out of altruism or affection for the recipient.

"As per rules, an adopted child is not a 'near relative' and a legally adopted child will have to meet the 'love and affection' standard of the THOTA," said Karnataka Authorisation Committee chairman Keshavmurthy R.

Inter-State drug racket unearthed, 12 peddlers arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Northeast division police unearthed an inter-State drug racket and arrested 12 peddlers, including a Nigerian national and four women, who were allegedly selling synthetic drugs to their clients in the city.

The accused have been identified as Hillary Egvoba, 29, from Nigeria, Hafeez Ruman, 26, Mansoor K.K., 33, Umar Farooq, 23, Vyshali Das, 29, Benjamin Gerald, 27, Triveni, 25, Glady Sunitha, 27, Sujana, 26, Magesh, 23, Mohammed Bilal, 23, and Manish Chouhan, 29.

Items recovered

The police caught two peddlers waiting near Lumbini Garden on ring road to deliver the goods.

Based on their information, the police arrested their associates and recovered cocaine and ecstasy pills worth ₹1 lakh from them. The police have recovered eight mobile phones and two bikes from them.

The accused were operating in the city and using a code word to deliver the drugs and getting the payment online, Anoop Shetty, DCP, Northeast division, said.

The accused have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act Act and investigation is under way.

INBRIEF

Midday meal workers' conference on Nov. 29, 30

The fifth State-level conference of the Karnataka Rajya Akshara Dasoha Naukarara Sangha (State Midday Meal Workers' Association), affiliated to CITU, will be held in Kalaburagi on November 29 and 30. CITU leaders Gauramma Patil and M.B. Sajjan and district president of Dasoha Naukarara Sangha Vijaylakshmi, jointly addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi on Saturday, said that the conference will discuss various issues pertaining to the BJP-led government's policies and the midday meal scheme.

From Page One

Voter data 'theft' case: Close to a lakh additions, deletions to be scrutinised

The period of claims and objections under Special Summary Revision (SSR) has been extended up to December 24. As per the draft electoral roll details, the BBMP had provided, there are 1.91 lakh voters in Shivajinagar, 2.1 lakh in Chickpet and 5.64 lakh in Mahadevapura.

One more accused arrested

The Halasuru Gate police on Saturday arrested five people, including three Regional Officers and one Assistant Revenue Officer. The fifth person, identified as Shivakumar, is an employee of the Chilume trust, and is said to be an important link between his office and the accused BBMP officials.

Soon after, the police arrested the BBMP officials who, they said allegedly colluded with Chilume trust to manipulate the voters list.

The police also continued to question Ravikumar, who was arrested earlier, about the confidential data which they had recovered during the recent raid . According to the police, the data should be with the BBMP or the candidate who is contesting the election. The probe has so far revealed that Ravikumar had employed around 500 people to survey the city's voters. In the south division alone, the accused have deleted a majority of the voters belonging to a minority community and replaced them with fresh names, added the police.

Fence planned around Brindavan Gardens

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

As the leopard scare is unrelenting at the Brindavan Gardens which is now indefinitely closed for tourists, CNNL has now drawn up a plan of laying a 12 to 15 feet height fence in a bid to prevent wild cats from straying into the garden and dam area. They are awaiting response from the State government.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, NOV. 27	
RISE 06:24	SET 17:51
RISE 09:49	SET 21:25
MONDAY, NOV. 28	
RISE 06:24	SET 17:51
RISE 10:48	SET 22:29
TUESDAY, NOV. 29	
RISE 06:25	SET 17:51
RISE 11:41	SET 23:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night remains cool.

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Warm vaccine's phase 1 and 2 trials from March-April 2023

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Phase 1 and 2 trials for a warm vaccine developed by scientists of Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) and Bengaluru-based biotech company Mynvax Laboratories will be initiated by March-April 2023.

This warm, or heat tolerant vaccine, can be stored at 37 degree Celsius for a month and at 100 degree Celsius for up to 90 minutes. It is expected to come handy in countries which have poor cold-chain, refrigeration and transportation facilities.

The warm vaccine has already proven effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern – Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Omicron.

Covaxin and Covishield can be stored at 2 to 8 degree Celsius, Pfizer requires minus 70 degree Celsius, Moderna minus 20 degree Celsius and Sputnik V needs to be stored at 2 to 8 degree Celsius. "We expect to initiate Phase 1 and 2 trials by March-April 2023 with about 120 human volunteers," said Dr. Gautham Nadig, Executive Director, Mynvax.

During Phase 1 of the trial, the safety of the vaccine would be evaluated. During Phase 2, the focus would be on preliminary immunogenicity of the vaccine.

"We will be evaluating the immunogenicity of the vaccine to see if there is sufficient neutralising antibodies that are elicited by the vaccine in people who already have had Covid-19. We want to check if this vaccine will act as a booster dose," Dr. Nadig said.

Time frame for trials

When asked about the time frame for completing the different phases of trials, he said, "It all depends on the data we derive from Phase 2. But Phase 1 and 2 trials should not take more than 6-8 months. Further for Phase 3, we can't do the trials with the old strains. Now, the Omicron derivatives have come, and we will have to change the strain for Phase 3, which should be completed in another year."

Dr. Nadig said Mynvax Laboratories has received funding from Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council in March 2022 to enable production for animal safety toxicity studies, Good Manufacturing Practice production for clinical trials and Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials.

THE HINDU
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APPOINTMENT

SAYYID AKBAR HUSAYNI (ICSE) SCHOOL
SAH Campus, Sangtrashwadi, Rauza-i Buzurg, Kalaburagi - 585 104.
Under the administration of
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY, KALABURAGI.
REQUIRES PRINCIPAL
Candidate should be a Post Graduate with B.Ed./M.Ed. with a minimum of 5 years of academic and administrative experience in the capacity of Principal in a recognized ICSE School. Accommodation will be provided by the University and the term of appointment is initially for a period of 3 years.
Salary will be according to the qualifications and experience. Interested candidates may send the Resume by e-mail on registrar@kbn.university so as to reach the undersigned on or before 17th Dec. 2022.
Registrar Khaja Bandanawaz University
Admin Block, Rauza-i Buzurg, KALABURAGI - 585104 (Karnataka)

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament
NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PH.D./VIDYAVARIDHI PROGRAMME
The Banaras Hindu University invites ONLINE APPLICATION for admission to Ph.D./Vidyavaridhi programme for January 2023 term under RET-Exempted category of the academic session 2022-23. Candidates desirous of applying for admission to the said programme may visit the University's Entrance Test Portal (www.bhuonline.in) for downloading the RET Information Bulletin and online submission of application form. The online application form is available on the Entrance Test Portal. The last date of its online submission is 08th December, 2022. For further details visit the entrance test portal of BHU (www.bhuonline.in).
REGISTRAR

MORE REASONS TO EAT
AMERICAN PISTACHIOS

Pistachios have protein, beneficial fats, fiber and other important nutrients your body needs every day. Current research highlights key health and nutrition properties of pistachios.[1]

DIET QUALITY
- Pistachio eaters tend to have better diets overall and eat more fiber, vitamins and minerals
- Pistachios are rich in plant compounds with health protective activity, such as phenolic compounds, carotenoids, and phytosterols
- Pistachios are a plant source of protein (and the amino acid arginine) and are lower in fat and carbohydrates than most nuts
- Pistachios contain about 19 µg of melatonin per 1 oz. serving. Melatonin supplements are commonly used by people with irregular sleep patterns

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
- Pistachios are 5 percent lower in calories than estimated previously
- Research shows that eating pistachios is not associated with weight gain or obesity and is linked with reduced waist circumference
- Some studies show that choosing in-shell pistachios (opposed to unshelled) may result in reduced calorie intake due to the visual cue of empty pistachio shells

HEART HEALTH
- According to recent research, certain nutrients in pistachios may support heart health by lowering LDL (bad) cholesterol, blood pressure, oxidative stress and inflammation, and improving endothelial function

BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL
- High fiber, healthy fats, and health protective compounds in pistachios may help maintain healthy blood glucose levels
- Pistachios are low in carbohydrates and don't significantly raise blood sugar after eating (low glycemic index)
- Adding pistachios to a high glycemic meal like potatoes and pasta help reduce glycemic response
- When added to a meal in place of high-carb food, pistachios may help improve blood glucose control over time

AMERICAN QUALITY PISTACHIOS® California Grown

[1] https://AmericanPistachios.in/nutrition-and-health
AmericanPistachios.in

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

TAMIL YADAV, 46 yrs, homely & age defying, l'less widow, software prof. seeks similar match from Chennai. Vegetarian. CNB. (No divorcees). ct: 8939042966

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED GROOM
Hindu Girl 30yrs Old, 5'3", Fair, Slim, Excellent In Academics, MS From London School Of Economics. Working With MNC London. Parents Living In Chennai Req: Only Well Settled Hindu Groom From A Good Family Back Ground.
Contact:
80560 47665

52 HINDU govt service having son, wanted groom for 2nd marriage 9791594133

NAMBIAR– EZHAVA parents seek well settled Nair boy below 32 for Vegtn daughter, 27/165, Punartham, M.Tech, R&D Engineer in MNC, Blr. Pls whatsapp Profile to 8547188038. (No broker; no dowry)

Proposals from Boys of Comparable Profile for Palghat Nair Divorcee Girl born Oct 1983 Makayiram, 152cm fair athletic, SWE with a multinational at Bangalore. Contact: 9446022706, Email: nairjk54@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

SM FOR 33 yrs 160 cm, anshik Manglik, PGDM, l'less div, North Indian Brahmin girl working in Gurgaon. M 9625636997

DOCTOR

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM** parents seek Allopathic Doctor for daughter 30 yrs Slim, Fair MBBS,M.S., Mob: 8056198771

TAMIL RC Christian 32yrs MDS Govt.Dr, fair, Chennai. Parents seek Doctor groom. 9884233155.

MATCHING HINDU Tamil Doctor Groom for a MBBS, DNB OG 29yrs158cm Fair Hindu BC Nesavu Saliyar works in Pvt. Med College Chennai Ct–9444141815

NAMBIAR ASWATHY 36/150 PG Doctor working in a leading hospital, Kerala, seeks compatible groom from Nair Community. Cont:8144140365

HINDU PARVATHARAJAKULAM 28 MBBS Slim Fair seeks MBBS/MS/MD grooms. Caste no bar. Whatsapp: 9487675357

AGE 25 years, 5ft 9 inch Good Looking Pursuing M.S (Surgery), Parents Seeks Chennai based teetotaler and humble Doctors / Professors. Parents Contact: anandchammu@yahoo.co.in with Photograph and details.

SEEKS DOCTOR GROOM
CASTE NO BAR (BC/FC PREFERED) HINDU TAMIL VISWAKARMA GIRL PURSUING MD RADIOLOGY FINAL YEAR, CHENNAI, AGE 25 Yrs, 5'6'', STAR: THIRUVATHIRAI. LOOKING FOR GROOM WITH MD -RADIOLOGY / CLINICAL SUPER SPECIALITY
WHATSAPP : +91 8754550159

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

IFS, IAS, IPS, IES, Central Services, DANICS, DANIPS general category for beautiful girl 5ft 3inch born Nov1991 studied DPS R K Puram, MS Business Analytics from USA high pay job in MNC. Delhi based high bureaucratic family who inherited forty acres in Haryana and six flats/plots. Contact Parent 8448873928

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA, 28/153Cms, B.E., DIP (Arch) seeks Groom from the same community. CT: 97917 68175.

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL @Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/Chevva Dosam Seeks Grooms Nair/Menon Family 9840944880 / 9447696424

PARENTS OF Vellala Pillai Girl, Trivandrum, M.Tech., 33/175, Utradam, employed as Major in Indian Army. Invites proposal from Officer rank of Army / Airforce / Navy / Banking. Hindu's any. Ph: 9497003119

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA GIRL 34, BTech MBA (IIM B) working in IMF Washington DC seeks suitable alliance from parents of professionally qualified boys working in US. 8281571268, 9447710558. Email: ushak7@hotmail.com

NRI

PARENTS FROM a middle class family looking for a groom settled in US for our only daughter, 31/160, born and raised in US with traditional Indian values. MS from a good university and working in a middle/high school teaching STEM. Our son graduated from a top school and is working for a reputed tech company. Caste no bar. Email Nitha1357246@gmail.com or WhatsApp +1 (732) 581–1116.

SEEKING US Citizen Groom for well settled Boston based Tamil Iyer Girl, 32 / 156.cm, Citizen. Subsect no bar. Call +7816521089

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Doctors Seek Suitable Groom for Fair Doctor Girl Aged 23 Respond drraj0499@gmail.com

RC 88 born, slim, goodlooking, NUS Singapore educated working as Sr.Engineer Boston US Seeks Educated similar position, RC Tamil groom settled in US. Ct: 7305010105

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

RC NADAR Girl ME 33/5.7 fair Software Engineer seeks BC/FC groom. Contact / WhatsApp 9886888775.

Christian Girl ME-SW(34 yrs) working as Software Developer in Singapore based company seeks christian Doctor Engnr / IT groom. +65-88704764 (WA) Email id: groom4sg@yahoo.com

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Parents very well to do settled in Chennai invite marriage proposal for their daughter B.Com, MBA (UK) assigned in a Foreign Embassy in Chennai, God fearing, fair, beautiful. Bridegroom should be well educated and from well to do family age 31 to 35, Parents Contact. 9790787919.

SUITABLE MATCH for Modern Tamil Christian Bride working in Amazon at Chennai age 29, height 165, annual income 6.50 lakhs belongs to wealthy affluent family background seeks Groom from SC christian parayar community with good educational and modern family background. 9087942906

MDS RC32/165 Reader Dental college Chennai seeks PGDrs/Engr caste No bar Ct 9444157888

RC NADAR, Tamil Girl, 29 years, M.E., 5 feet, vegetarian wants to be a home maker invites marriage proposal from Govt. Employee of any BC, Roman Catholic. Contact: 94422 47012

MALAYSIA ANGLO Female, seeks decent & Good Man 35–48yrs for settle down in Malaysia. Spouse visa recommended W'sap:+60176917801

HINDU Nadar 1989 Ashwini 160cm Central.Govt Job Bangalore, 80K pm. Seeks suitable groom. Ct:9489972544

CSI NADAR Girl, 1975 Jan Born, M.A., M.Phil., Unmarried, Working in MNC Accenture, Seeks Suitable Match below 49 Yrs, (Unmarried only), BC any Caste, Professionally Qualified and Employed, Ct: 9940019751

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 31 BE, M.Tech, Ph.D Seeks educated Profl Groom. CT: 8760883559/ 8973345370

HINDU, 31YRS, Engineer MS (USA Return) Employed in Software Seeks Chennai based Well Educated & Cultured never Married Grooms below 34yrs Prefer: Non Veg & BC Caste 9344053964

HINDU NADAR 32/155 BE SWE, IAM Cyber Security Bangalore Accenture UK. Pooram Suitable Groom 9442126376

TAMIL

YADAVA 27, PG medicine completed Bride. seeks Groom PG Doctor or Business family, Contact: 94436 22400

DKV 31/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. 9940507235

HINDU NADAR 26, BE/MS 165cm USA Income 400000 Seeks Suitable Wellsettled Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

VISWABRAHMIN (GS)/ Thiruvonam 40/ 150, ME (CSE) / Rich/ Fair seeks same caste Groom. 9486320982

MUDALIAR (CNB): 25/ V.Fair, B.E, MBA, Going to Higher Studies in Canada, Elite Family ,Only daughter – Seeks Groom Only Canada – 9841060236, 8925019776

24, BSC, MA Pvt Good looking, SC/BC intercaste, preparing UPSC Seeks permanent profession caste no bar age below30. 98846 95374/ 80727 44856

THULUVA VELLALAR B.E/38/165/ Rohini /1LAC PM, Fair,Govt Employed Deputy Registrar Seeks Suitable Groom from Same Community. Email:neomullai@gmail.com, Call:9361277722/9361110016

SC AD Hindu, BE MBA, SBI Manager, 34yrs, Mesham–Bharani, seeking suitable & qualified Groom. Ph–9962806142

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferebly based in Mumbai. Contact: 99940 22477.

84 BORN, 162 slim, pretty MBA well placed seeks suitable boy with decent job and salary from good family. CNB. Ct: 7305010105

85 BORN, tamil tall fair slim pretty smart divorcee with a girl child, CEO high networth seeks a matching groom CNB 7305010105

SC PARAYAR 47 Central Govt. Job, 3 Lakhs Per Month. Seeks Suitable Boy. CNB. 9443997479.

VOKKALIGA GOUNDER, CA/26/164/foreign bank, Bharani, cultured, well traveled from Chennai based affluent family. Remarriage (annulled within 2 mths). Seeks prof qualified, well settled, affable South Indian Hindu match below 32 yrs from BC/FC community. Ct/whatsapp: 9444026269

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 91/165 Mirugasirisam Raghu in Lagnam, PG Working HR MNC Seeks MS/M.Tech Groom 9176780777

HINDU NADAR Girl 29/162 MBBS.MD, V.Fair StarKarthigai Well Settled in Chennai Need MD.MS Groom 8148887767

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR 25/ B.E. /Kettai / MNC Reputed Business Family seeks Alliance. Ph : 98400 93322

WELL–TO–DO INTERCASTE Parents– Father–SC (Industrialist) & Mother–Brahmin (Teacher) seek alliance for their second daughter 30/153/ Punarpoosam, Mithunam working as an Animator in Education field. Boy should be well qualified & well placed in his career with a good family background. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9841033501

HINDU SC AD, Poorattathi/ Meenam, Age 34, M.C.A Working in a MNC company, seeking Educated Groom from a good family background, below 38 Years from any Tamil Speaking Community. Contact: 9840107770, 9952930893.

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our daughter Karunya aged 33, residing in Bangalore, height 5feet 3 inch, MSc biotech, earning a decent salary Hindu brahmin. The groom should hail from decent educated family, Hindu Brahmin around 33 to 36 years nonsmoker, teatotalar well placed in a decent job . contact no 7276184530 email Id ramani.venkat14@gmail.com.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, Moolam, 24/156, fair, BE, SWE, seeks educated & employed groom, Vegetarian family. CT: 9965379545

35 B.COM MBA Pillai Anusham Raghu in lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom 9094020665

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
Well Settled Doctor
Super Speciality Mch., 29/155
Chennai Vellala Mudaliar Seeks
Suitable groom qualified with
super Speciality/Masters degree
(M.S / M.D/ M.Ch)
Doctor Sub Caste no bar
Contact BY WhatsApp
Ph: 9500085455 / 9840358135

TAMIL

DKV 36/165cm Anusham, B.Tech, TCS Chennai, now working in US, 16L PA, Seeks SWE, Bank, Central, State, Govt. Grooms. CNB. Ct: 9566884715.

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 34/154 fair Hastham MCA Uppr Mid Cls Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Workg in Corp Co 8220757159

HINDU NADAR, Chennai, 28, M.Tech, Govt Officer, Good Salary. Seeking PG, Well Settled, Educated Family in Chennai, 9445055308

SC ARUNTHATHIYAR Thiruvathirai 9-9-1985 MSc employed 1st Marriage seeks suitable groom. Ph:9150331377

MUDALIAR 28/154, Beautiful, MBBS, Government Job, 66000.PM,Well to do Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

WELL CULTURED, Educated and well to do HINDU-DEVENDRAKULA VELALAR (PALLAN) Parents invite proposals for their well educated and employed daughter B.Tech (NIT), MBA(IIM) 27 years well settled & good looking. Father Category – 1 Officer – Central Govt., Seeks Suitable Alliance from well educated and decent family. Contact No. 91766 77746

TAMIL

31 years, Postgraduate Doctor (MD, DM) Hindu Vanniyar Girl, Good Looking, Fair, Divorcee with girl child, seeking well educated Hindu groom - Divorcee/ Widower between 33 and 37 years from suitable family. Caste No Bar Parents: Doctor Couple. For details, Please contact:
85310 74614

ASTASHASRAM, IYER, Revathi, Oct.1972, B.Sc., Seeks well educated / settled 1st Marriage Iyer Groom only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA, 27/154cm B.E, MNC 15L PA seeks suitable Groom from same community Ct: 9444155781

SEER KARUNEEGAR Fair Girl/ME/ 1991/5.4ft/Avittam/Vishwamitra Gothram.MNC wkng Well Settled fmly Seeks Only Same Caste Suitable GROOM. CT.94445 16407.

MUKKULATHORE 41/155, MBA divorce no kids working in USA, Seeks suitable Groom. CT: 9363333297.

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

WANTED EDUCATED bride willing to relocate for 33 Yrs/173cm boy working in Japan from well settled family. Caste no bar. Mobile +919445601851

DIVORCEE

HIGHLY QUALIFIED settled handsome divorcee Mudaliar /CNB, looking for good looking Bride. Ct 9962018503

ENGLISH

IYER, KOUSIGAM, Mirugaseerdam, Divorcee, 40 Years, BE, TCS Chennai, 30 LPA seeks First Marriage/Divorcee Suitable Girl Ct: 9894291541/6381253487

QUALIFIED ALLIANCE for handsome boy, IIT, working in Bank of America, USA, salary $2.5lakhs pa. DOB 13/09/1991 10:50am Chandigarh, 5ft 9inch, caste no bar, working girl. Father retired, mother principal in govt college, Punjab. Contact: +91–9920477513.

TAMIL

59, FAIR, Clean – Habits, Own House Seeking Widow / Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

REMARRIAGE DKV 31 SWE Malaysia Puratathi Meenam OwnHouse Chennai Seeks Bride Age Below 30.(Hindu / Christian/working /Non–Working) 9444807156

AUSTRALIA WORKING Software Engineer, B.Tech (NIT Trichy), PG (UTS Australia), Tamil, Vellalar, non–vegetarian, 182cms, fair, 1994, affluent, high–net–worth Chennai family, looking for software engineer bride from similar background, willing to work in Australia, caste no bar. Personal phone/WhatsApp +91–6381092899

CASTE NO BAR 39/168 PILLAI M.Tech(CSE) SWE MNC Chennai 18 Lakhs Aswini Star seeks suitable bride. Mobile: 9841151575/ sthirumagal@yahoo.com

MUDALIYAR 54/165 B.Tech/ LLB(Hons) Divorcee Well settled Chennai based Seeks Suitable Bride. 8608728903

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

HINDU/ TAMIL Dhivakar 28/170MBA, Lingesh 25/175 LLM, Two sons working Chennai own house, well suitable bride. India/Abroad CNB CT 8825420193

ELITE MUDALIYAR 28yrs B.E., M.S., (Own Colleges, Automobile Spares Manufacturing Industries) Seeks Rich Bride. Ct: 72002 61495

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** 30, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) in Chennai, Annual Income: 14 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same community or any other community. Phone: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

MUDALIAR ANUSHAM 35/180 Fair, MBA, Manager, MNC, Bglr, Divorcee, well educated family. Seeks Graduate employed bride. Cont:9500934581

AGAMUDAIYAR 38 MBA MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9444865135

VANNIYAR, 36/168CM, BE, 1.3Lac, Visagam 4th, Working in TATA Group of Company seeks Suitable Alliance same Caste Ct: 9443401831 / 9626040083

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, Doctor Parents seeks alliance for their son 39 yrs/ 175 cm, Pooratathi-star, Meena Rasi, 80000/p.m, Divorcee with 8 yrs boy seeks suitable Bride/ Divorcee. Ct: 99945 35673

SWE BE 36/162, 50,000 per month HCL, Pillai seeks suitable bride. caste no bar.Email:kbsmp1956@gmail.com.

HINDU NATHAMAN Udaiyaar, Senior Engineer, working in Japan. Good looking Boy 34yrs Magam, Simma Rasi. Family seeks alliance from first and unmarried bride. Caste no bar, Contact: 97913 55787

42, CHENNAI boy working as Advisor Cyber Security in Chennai, seeks good character girl for his first marriage. Caste no bar, education nobar, no dowry. if interested Call: 9742033888, email: saravananjvjv@gmail.com . All the best for your partner search as well.

HINDU, AGE : 39, Divorced, USA Citizen, Seeking (Engg/ Medicine) Bride With No Child, Caste No Bar. Contact : 9994328550 / 9790515437

VISWABRAHMIN (GS) / Thiruvonam, 40/170, ACA&ACMA/ 70000, MNC seeks Same Caste Bride. 9486320982

MUDALIAR, 29, M.Tech, 175cm, 18 lacs P.A Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

REDDY, 46/175, BE, IT manager, well settled, remarriage,no child, seeks suitable bride 35+ Blr 9741776169

HINDU NADAR 25, BE/MBA 175cm Inc 150000/– Working in Bangalore Seeks Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

✔ **VANNIAR, HANDSOME** rich 92 born pursuing MS Oncology seeks slim pretty Tamil DOCTOR girl Bangalore /Chennai based. CNB. Ct: 7305010105

Mudaliar Mirugazirisham unmarried 36/195 BE Self-Employed UMC. Any Graduate BC OC Girl. Ct-9566757872.

AGAMUDAYAR 31/160 cm BE working in B'Lore MNC Rs.9 Lak. PA, Native Coimbatore. Makam, no Dosham, Seeks suitable educated fair bride. Brokers Excuse. Ct: 9688081599

TAMIL

SC/AD/29Yrs/175cms/BE/Software/ Engineer/12 lac. P.A/Own house in Chennai/Wants fair/Tall bride below 25 years. Ct : 8124071315.

HINDU ,BE/SWE/31YRS/SC –Caste No Bar/Ayilyam–Kadagam . Settled in Bangalore .Seeks Bride below28yrs from educated and well settled family .Con No 9845401461.

MUDALIYAR AGE 48, MSc Monthly Income 60,000 Divorcee No Issue. Seeks Suitable Bride. 9841125556, 9841595637

MUDALIAR 36 / 180, Thulam Visakam–3rd Padam, Architect, Working in a Reputed University in Tamilnadu as Associate Professor. Both Parents are Doctors. Seeks Professionally Qualified Good looking Bride. Whatsapp: 9840039196, Ct: 9500173320

HINDU NADAR 34, Tall, Fair, B.Tech software onsite Dubai 48 LPA Avittam Magaram well settled family, Madurai Tamil Nadu seeks suitable Bride. Contact: 9442984922, 9443860983.

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 40 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt. Job Rs 1.10 p/m 7904550883

AGAMUDAI MUDALIAR 34 Years 168 cms B E Civil Engineer Abudhabi 4 Lakhs Per Month.Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste No Bar. Contact : 9003575687

HINDU NADAR Age 28, MBBS/MD, 170cm, Income Rs.2Lacs PM, Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

BITS PILANI 6'1 Engineer Mudaliar born in Nov 91 Wkg as Product Manager at BNG Sal 40 lacs seeks Bride - Engineer, CA, Doctor Ct 7382620365.

MUDHALIAR, 55/165cm, Unmarried Working in Engg. College Chennai. Own House at Chromepet. Seeks Unmarried Brides / Widows Caste No Bar WhatsApp: 9176263492

B.TECH. M.S. BITS–Pilani Boy 34/ 5ft 4inch MNC 22LPA Hindu–Goundar/ Chennai. Looking for girl from same caste/caste no bar. 9941352228 or venkatesh.jayvish@gmail.com

TAMIL IYER 51, 5ft 7inch Short lived marriage. Employed MNC–Delhi NCR. Clean Habits, Religious .Looking only for brahmin life partner. Contact knvteja@yahoo.com.

MUDALIAR, 35, bachelor, MSc, MNC company, Punarpoosam, Midhunam, educated, well settled family, similar educated girl, age 27 to 32, +919840276814, devivjk@gmail.com

Intercaste boy (naidu+sc) 31/5.11" Org.integrated farming at 8 acres LPA 24 lacs seeks wrkg. Tamil bride 9445720154

T.veli Saiva Pillai 27/180 Mirugasedam Media Manager Ch 75k pm seeks Employed Bride. Ct: 98400 11676

MUDALIAR B.E MBA M.Phil LLB 39/165 / 10Lac P.A Seeks Bride Simple Marriage. Call: 8861238981

MUDALIAR 28/177, Handsome, MBBS, (MS) Government Stipend, Well Settled Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

HINDU Devendrakulathan BE 27 IT Business Coimbatore seeks suitable Bride. CT: 94429-54294.

HINDU NAIDU, 39 yrs/ 178cms, MCA, Divorcee, Income above 2L PM, Own Businesses, Own house and plots well settled seeks suitable educated Bride. No expectations. Ct: 88385 22077.

KALLAR MBBS Working as dmo age 24 height 176cm Wanted reputed Bride Ct: 7397373746

HINDU NADAR 32, BE, 170cm, Govt. Job, Income 60000 Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

HINDU MUDALIAR BE/MS, 170cm, Working in USA, Income 6Lac, Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9710093999

VADAKALAI Iyengar Boy, Punarpoosam 5'ft 6 Inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979,never married, MNC, Chennai, M.S I.T, 24 Lacs pa seeks never married Brahmin Brides. Cont. with BPH Whats App 7299704899 / 9443092289

ASTASHASRAM KARTHIGAI 53 MBA M.S, well settled Seeks educated 1st Marriage any Iyer brides only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

IYER BRAHACHARANAM MOOLAM NETRAKASHYAPAM NOV 1973 DIPL. PVT ORG 4 L PA SEEKS ANY GIRL 9840023524

ALLIANCE INVITED from Brahmin girl, professionally qualified, 5ft 4" & above, working in USA OR willing to Relocate to USA for 6 ft. 2", Dec.1990 born, Brahmin IYER boy, Vadama, Moudgalya Gothram, Poosam, Good looking, MS, employed in USA. Please contact: 9152800764 & 9768875103

TAMIL

IYER 35/180, Fair, Bharani Star, Haritha Gothram own Business in Chennai Seeks Suitable Aliance from Brahmin Family 9841819468 / 9841030226

DIVORCEE REVATHY 37/186 B.E. M.B.A Handsome Sr. Manager Iyer Boy Seeks Graduate Brahmin Girl 9176090042

BRAHMIN,42, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl. Ph: 9487851429

BRIDE WANTED
A High profile, well-established (Business) Family in Chennai is looking for a beautiful Girl for their suave and humble 29 year old son.
✆ 80726 23211

31/ 164 cm, ME, Assistant Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee- no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar Pref Ct: 94430 52596/ 94456 89306

TELUGU

TELUGU BALIJA Naidu Lawyer 43, looking for suitable Telugu speaking bride subsect no bar.Ct: 9444048537

BALIJA 28/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi/ BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 42Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

KAMMA 90 born very affluent tall handsome boy with double MS from US seeks tall slim pretty girl from rich business family. CNB 7305010105

NAIDU M30 Poosam 186cms Fair M.E.,Phd.,Need Bride Fair Slim Well Qualified with Good Family. Ct:9944533545

NAIDU, 27/180CM, BTech, MS, Pooratathi , Working as Research Engineer in Sweden. Contact 9566682220

TELUGU VANNAR, 1984, MBA, Kanni, Astham, Manager in MNC, 20 Lac.PA, Caste No Bar. Contact : 82480 12326

HINDU, 33 Fair/Tall/ Handsome boy MBA, Seeks Suitable Eudcated Girl (Veg.) from decent Family. 9444390833

BALIJA NAIDU V.Fair Boy/ 12-2-86 / BE MS /USA/182 CM/ UTH.BHADRA/ Well Setld Fmly. Seeks Sutble B. Naidu Bride. No demands. Contact. 94423 39080/94410 80676

NAIDU PUNARPOOSAM 35 MBA Own Flat, seeks bride, good family background. Ct: 9445367047 / 9445367057

✔ **BALIJA, HANDSOME** 97 born very rich affluent business family seeks very fair and beautiful bride from high status and networth. Ct 7305010105

BRIDE WANTED
A affluent Telugu Naidu family Settled in chennai, Seeks alliance for their only Son - DOB : 02/08/1999, Meenam,Uthiratathi, 5.9', Very fair B.com, MBA, Father is a good Networth individual. Seeks Alliance from the Same Caste.
Ct: 98410 71701
sanjaychemicals2006@yahoo.com

URDU

Urdu Muslim Chennai based 26/ 165cm BE Software Engineer Germany seeks BE, MBA, BDS, MPhil Bride from well Educated Family. Contact: 9445327165.

MARATHI

NEVER MARRIED Marathi Brahmin Dr cardiologist 50 yrs 5ft 4inch Hyderabad seeks never married Brahmin educated girl 39–45 yrs. Bride from other veg caste also considered. 7013810359.

TAMIL

CSI, 30/179, MBA, Project Manager Bangalore from well settled family seeks suitable employed Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9443773083/ 9486733679.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs / 178cms, MBBS with DIP in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride / Divorcee above 28yrs. Contact: 90039 83230.

RC USA Divorcee Yadava Scientist 44/180 Seeks Suitable Bride From BC / FC. Whatsapp No: 99628 82322

R. CATHOLIC Mukkuva Caste/ two sons of Doctor family/ Chennai/ Age 28 (ht 167)and 26 (ht 174) / Both MBA/ Both working in Dubai/ Both handsome and fair/ looking for well settled good looking educated twins or sisters brides from Tamilnadu.R.catholic Mukkuva caste or from or Kerala R.catholic. Ct–9003304466

SAIVA PILLAI, MSC MBA 4Lakhs/ Monthly Company Owner 10 Crores Property only son 173cm Visagam 46yrs unmarried CNB. 9841553677 W

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR BOY, 29/180, BE (Civil), MS (USA), Pooram, suddha Jathakam, broughtup in Chennai, employed in family's construction business having properties in Chennai and Kerala looking for Professionally Qualified Tall and Fair Looking Nair Girl. Whatsapp: 9840397130 / 9962597100.

UPPER MIDDLE class Nair boy 30-172, Canadian PR, Trivandrum 9446085846

TELUGU

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call:9790908109

TELUGU CHETTIAR 8Veedu 25/165 V.Fair Swathi BE MS working in USA seeks groom (16 Veedu) same community 26–29yrs settled in abroad 9942713829

NAIDU 27/153CM/FAIR Good Looking/ CA/16L PA/Veg. God fearing Seeks Smart Professional Teetotaler, Veg Below 30 from decent family 9444361010

RICH KAMMA Naidu 24yrs B.Tech, (Own Spinning Mills) Coimbatore Fair Seeks Groom. Ct: 72002 61495

WANTED Groom Divorced/Unmarried 32-35yrs/ 180 cm, Fair, 80K Salary PM for Divorced Naidu Bride 31yrs/155 cm MBA,Working CNB.Cont: 91766 59800

KAMMA NAIDU 26/163 Uthiradam MS CS USA, 1Cr+/pa, SW Professional, seeks groom MS in US/ well settled business family in Tamilnadu 7550073772

Hindu, Telugu, Doc MD Pediatrics 30Years, Chennai, Alliance from Doctors / Engs. Phone: 9884614168

URDU

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM,** M.Arch, 27y, Fair&Slim, 161cm, working as an Architect in Australia seek alliance from Arch./Engg. boy settled in Australia. WhatsApp +974 66255871

EliteMatrimony.com
Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 170 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

PILLAI, 26, 175 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Srivilliputhur. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448345

PILLAI, 25, 168 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Namakkal. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match with Chevvai dosham. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 28, 170 cms, Professional, ME. Lives in Bangalore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from the similar community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448344

SENGUNTHAR/KAIKOLAR, 24, 175 cms, Businessman, BBA. Lives in Tiruppur. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match in same or similar community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 165 cms, Working Professional, MBA. Lives in USA. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded Brahmin Iyer match in USA. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR/CASTE NO BAR, 23, 168 cms, Entrepreneur, BSc. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Mother is an Entrepreneur. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 28, 173 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded Doctor match. Contact: 6366448345

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Post graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

MUSLIM, 24, 170 cms, BDS. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded Doctors match in India/ Abroad. Contact: 6366448345

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR Girl, Age 28, Ht 168 cms M.E, Asst. Professor, Upper Middle Class. Seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Contact: 96265 15511

GAVARA NAIDU, well Employed/ Business Bridegroom with BE/ CA/ MBBS/ MBA degree for Fair & Good looking Girl, Age 25, B.E., working in IT, Chennai belonging, Upper middle Class (Naidu Only). Call/ Whatsapp: 63806 23267/ 94450 02649

MUDALIAR : 24/165,Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch, Having Own Construction ,Sports Academy, Guest House & Restaurant ,Textile Business, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Business / Abroad – 8925019776

EMPLOYED QUALIFIED bridegrooms is wanted for SC/AD/MSC/DB 1983/ Vishakam,Dhulam bride 9498313625, 9444866276

WORKING PROFESSIONAL, Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 35 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 35–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM; 7550245659

IYER BRAHACHARNAM girl 40, unmarried koundinyam seeks boy (only 1st marriage) in B'lore MNC/ IT kchandra03@gmail.com, 9880020408

TAMIL IYER koundinyam 96born pretty girl ACS well placed rich traditional family seeks tall well qualified handsome boy from Chennai Iyer afluent traditional family. 7305010105

GROOM WANTED
Attractive, Tall, Post graduate 28 Years old from a high profile chennai based family, Looking for a well educated smartgroom between 28-32 Years over (5ft 9Inches) from an affluent non vegetarian hindu family settled in chennai or bangalore.
Call or Whatsapp
9342381214

TAMIL

BUSINESS / AFFLUENT FAMILY
A Corporate and Big Business Family in South India invites alliance for their daughter 29/165 (who has finished masters from top class university). Matching from Big Business House or Corporate Group.
The Boy should be tall, well educated from big business family / corporate group
nichiyam21@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call:9790908109

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

State tops in registration of health professionals

Karnataka has ranked number one in the registration of health professionals and is in the second position in the registration of health facilities in the entire country under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said that the State holds the first position with 28,643 doctors and nurses registered in the Healthcare Professionals Registry. Under the Health Facility Registry, a total of 27,244 facilities have been registered, the second highest in the country, he said.

With 4.58 lakh personal health records of patients in Karnataka linked to Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts, the State is in the second position in this category too, the Minister added.

MP adopts 500 TB patients

Lahar Singh Siroya, BJP MP, has adopted 500 tuberculosis patients in Bengaluru under the PM's Nikshay Mitra initiative as part of a programme to make Karnataka TB-free by 2025.

The adopted patients will receive essential nutrition and food kits delivered at their doorstep every month, said a press release. As mandated under Nikshay Mitra, the nutrition kits will consist rice, dal, gram, jaggery, oil, protein powder, and groundnut. As required under Nikshay Mitra, the initial duration of supply of nutrition kits will be six months and this duration may get extended on the advice of the Health Department.

At a function held at Vasanthnagar in Bengaluru, the MP announced he would donate rapid diagnosis TB machines. Karnataka currently has 29,000 TB patients.who have consented to receive aid under Nikshay Mitra.

In 15 years, foodgrain production increased by 40.5 lakh tonnes in State

Karnataka's land use too went up by 10.24 lakh hectares, gross irrigated area by 17.06 lakh ha

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Karnataka's foodgrain production, including rice, wheat, coarse cereals, and pulses, has increased by 40.55 lakh tonnes – from 1.049 crore tonnes to 1.45 crore tonnes – in the last 15 years, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States (2022).

The handbook said foodgrain production increased from 1,04,95,000 tonnes in 2004-05 to 1,45,50,000 tonnes in 2020-21 in the State, while net sown area increased by 3.05 lakh hectares from 1,04,99,000 hectares to 1,08,04,000 hectares during the same period.

Karnataka's land use too increased by 10.24 lakh hectares, gross irrigated area by 17.06 lakh hectares, and net irrigated area by 14.15 lakh hectares during the last 15 years.

While the production of rice, the State's staple food, increased by 74,400 tonnes, that of wheat rose by 83,000 tonnes, coarse cereals by 22.35 lakh tonnes, and production of pulses by 12.73 lakh tonnes during the 15-year period.

"The yield of all food crops increased substantially owing to increased irrigation facilities, use of fertilizers, and pesticides and innovative methods of farming used by farmers across the State," said the report.

The production of rice rose by 74,400 tonnes in the 15-year period. FILE PHOTO

Yield

The rice yield per hectare has increased by 360 kg, wheat by 551 kg, coarse cereals by 730 kg, and pulses by 285 kg. The yield of foodgrains increased from 1,388 kg to 1,767 kg, an increase of 379 kg per hectare. Area under rice rose by 89,000 hectares while area under wheat declined by one lakh hectares. Area under coarse cereals also declined by 3.98 lakh hectares while area under pulses increased by 10.20 lakh hectares. The total area under foodgrains increased by 6.72 lakh hectares between 2005 and 2021.

Milk, vegetables

While the area under vegetables increased by 93,000 hectares, its production increased by 27.71 lakh tonnes during the period, the RBI said. The production of various types of fruits in the State has increased by 31.4 lakh tonnes.

The State's milk production increased from 99,000 tonnes to 3.64 lakh tonnes during the 15-year period, while fish production rose from 2.51 lakh tonnes to 6.32 lakh tonnes during the period.

Upward trend

AREA (in thousand hectares)

	2004-05	2020-21
Land use	12,807	13,831
Net sown area	10,499	10,804
Gross irrigated area	3,328	5,034
Net irrigated area	2,820	4,235

PRODUCTION OF COMMODITIES (in thousand tonnes)

	2004-05	2020-21
Rice	3,547	4,291.7
Wheat	179	262.1
Coarse cereals	5,696.7	7,931.2
Pulses	792	2,065

YIELD (in kg per hectare)

	2004-05	2020-21
Rice	2,712	3,072
Wheat	740	1,291
Coarse cereals	1,530	2,260
Pulses	376	661

State's outstanding liabilities increase by more than double

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With a many-fold increase in the size of Karnataka's Budget, the State's outstanding liabilities increased by more than two times from ₹44,345 crore in 2005 to ₹1,17,790 crore in 2022 (Budget estimates).

The interest payments of the government on various types of borrowings too increased eight times from ₹3,794 crore in 2004-05 to ₹27,161 crore in 2021-22 (BE), noted recently released Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States.

With a huge amount of revenue being spent on providing the salary of government employees, the State has increased its borrowings over the years from various institutions for undertaking development projects. The government's outstanding guarantees increased from ₹10,786.4 crore in 2008 to ₹26,830 crore in 2020.

The State's gross fiscal deficit increased by 16 times from ₹3,600 crore to ₹59,240 crore between 2004-05 and 2020-21.

The State's own tax resources increased by more than six times from ₹16,072 crore to ₹1,11,494 crore, while non-tax revenue too doubled from ₹4,472 crore to ₹8,528 crore during the same period.

While the capital outlay is up from ₹4,674 crore to ₹41,358 crore, capital expenditure rose from ₹9,315 crore to ₹58,302 crore. The social expenditure for various welfare schemes of farmers and the poor has increased almost nine times from ₹9,764 crore in 2005 to ₹92,038 crore in 2022. The pension component amounts up from ₹2,157 crore to ₹23,413 crore.

Elevated fiscal deficit

Almost every State economy has already surpassed its pre-pandemic size and State finances are looking up even as concerns over elevated fiscal deficit remain.

Phone use booms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With phones coming to define our lives in multiple ways, the number of phones per 100 people has changed enormously. The number of phones per 100 population increased from 9.46 in 2004 to 100.1 now in Karnataka. The number of phones per 100 people in the whole country is 84.87. It stands at 52.87 in Bihar, 95.08 in Gujarat, 125.15 in Kerala, 103.69 in Tamil Nadu, 138.44 in Himachal Pradesh in 2022, according to the RBI.

Male student thrashed for travelling in bus with girl of another faith in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A group of four or five persons have been accused of abusing and thrashing a male college student inside a private bus and forcing him to alight from it for travelling regularly with a girl student of another faith in the city on Thursday.

The girl travelling with him is said to be his classmate. It is suspected that the attackers were from a Hindutva group.

In a complaint filed with the Mangaluru East police, the victim, Sayyed Rasheem Umar, 20, a student at a private education institute at Karkala, Udupi district, said he was travelling in Padmambika bus from Karkala to Mangaluru via Nitte when the group of men rushed into the bus at about 4 p.m. at Nanthoor junction in the city. The group abused him, issued a life threat if he revealed the matter to anybody and forced him to alight from the bus. They thrashed him using canes, the student said.

Case registered

The police have registered a case in this connection under Sections 323, 324, 504, and 506 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code and are searching for the accused.

Responding to a tweet on the incident, the Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar tweeted on Friday: "Appropriate action is being taken regarding the incident."

Past incident

It may be recalled that in another incident of 'moral policing' in the city on October 21, the Kankanady police had arrested four persons of a Hindutva organisation on the charge of assaulting a 27-year-old man belonging to a minority community, by dragging him out of a private bus bound to Bengaluru as the youth was found travelling with a girl of another faith.

The police said that an activist of a right-wing organisation, who had come to deliver a parcel to the booking office of the private bus near KSRTC bus stand at Bejai, had heard about Mohammed Irfan, 27, travelling with a 27-year-old Hindu woman hailing from Kalasa in Chikkamagaluru, on October 21 night.

When the bus reached Naguri in the city, a group of activists blocked the way and went inside. Mr. Irfan claimed before the activists that his name was Ravi Kumar. After finding out his actual identity, the activists dragged Mr. Irfan out of the bus and rained down blows on him, the police said.

Based on a complaint by Mr. Irfan, the Kankanady police arrested Shivaraj, 28, Ganesh, 35, both from Attavar in the city; Dhanush, 22, of Manjeshwar in Kasaragod district of Kerala; and Micheal Kishore, 24, of Talapady in Mangaluru.

Copies of Constitution to be distributed to GPs: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to distribute copies of the Constitution of India, 73rd and 74th amendments, to gram panchayats and the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act to libraries of gram panchayats to run the administration as per the Constitution, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said.

Talking to reporters after garlanding the statue of B.R. Ambedkar on the occasion of Constitution Day here on Saturday, Mr. Bommai said the spirit of the Constitution must be felt at the village level also and, in this regard, copies of the Constitution of India would be distributed to libraries of GPs. "This Constitution has a liveliness as Dr. Ambedkar allowed to amend it from time to time in accordance with the changing social and economic situations," he said.

At the KPCC office, State party chief D.K. Shivakumar said at the celebrations that the Constitution is a "holy book for all Indians". He regretted that Mr. Bommai, bound by the Constitution as the Chief Minister of the State, is talking in a language that aims to subvert it. He argued that the latest talk on ushering in the uniform civil code by the Chief Minister was part of the same agenda. "We should try to protect the Constitution, not subvert it," he said.

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/MRU/2021-22/call-3 Date: 25/11/2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement mode for the SUPPLY OF Medical Equipment Multi-Disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) at GIMS, Kalaburagi. Details are available in the site: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.

1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-**http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in** : No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/MRU/2021-22/call-3 Date: 25/11/2022 ME/2021-22/IND4183/ CALL-3, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before : **05-12-2022 @ 05:00pm**, 3) Pre bid meeting: **06-12-2022 @ 12:30pm**, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before : **13-12-2022 @ 4.30pm**, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid : **14-12-2022 @ 05:00pm**, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid : **16-12-2022 @ 05:30pm**, 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 100.00 Lakhs** EMD Rs. 2,50,000/-, 8) Contact Details : Director, GIMS Kalaburagi Veresh Nagar Sedam Road Kalaburagi 585105 Landline: 08472-250770, Mobile : **9482093568** **directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com**

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/888/MC&A/2022-23

Action against doctors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a video clip of two government OBG specialists – Shashikala and Aishwarya – at the Community Health Centre in Bidadi demanding a bribe from the husband of a patient going viral on social media, the State Health Department has ordered an inquiry into the issue

Pending inquiry, the department has directed Dr. Shashikala to go on leave while Dr. Aishwarya, who has been hired on contract under the National Health Mission (NHM), has been dismissed from service by the Ramanagaram District Health Officer (DHO).

State Health Commissioner Randeep D., who sought a report from the DHO, said the department would ensure exemplary punishment against such doctors who demand illegal gratification from the public.

FM asks start-ups to invest in climate change, millet production, and value addition to help farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Young entrepreneurs with energetic minds in the county should look at investing and innovating in the areas of climate change, millet production, and improving the condition of farmers, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"You have already touched upon defence production, renewable energy, nuclear, satellites, space technologies, etc. I am asking you to explore some of those less glamorous areas as well," she said at the Start-up Inclusion Summit held here on Saturday.

Ms. Sitharaman said climate change was a critical issue and start-ups should explore this space and find solutions to deal with environmental issues as it had a direct bearing on farming as well as on the supply chain in the country.

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman being presented a memento during the Start-up Inclusion Summit in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

Challenges

"More and more innovations from the start-up community for dealing with climate and climate change are going to be absolutely precious," she added. The challenges that emerge out of unpredictable climatic conditions had a bearing on agriculture, urban living, water management, disaster management, construction of houses, industries, and national security, she said.

Ms. Sitharaman further said millets offered a way of healthy eating, especially for the urban population. There were plenty of opportunities for start-ups, including helping farmers realise better prices for their millet produce through value addition.

She said Karnataka was one of the main producers of diverse varieties of millets and the United Nations General Assembly had declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

The Finance Minister also said India would be chairing the G20 summit and one of the sessions involving the Finance Ministers and the Central bank governors would be held in February in Bengaluru.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Saraswathy Ramakrishnan 16-05-1936 to 25-11-2010
Dr. R. Ramakrishnan 25-08-1927 to 27-11-2012
"Loved and Remembered Everyday"
Ramesh & Radha Nalini & Rajan Girija & Harsha
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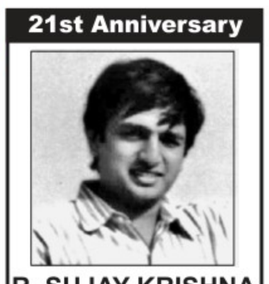
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

21st Anniversary


R. SUJAY KRISHNA
(1980-2001)
"Your love and sweet memories will live with us forever"
Sorrowing **Mummy, Daddy, Vijay, Ramani, Shravan & Tanmay**

INBRIEF

Telangana scores double win at UNESCO heritage awards

Telangana scored a double win at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation with a Distinction of Merit for the restoration of the 17th century stepwells inside the Qutb Shahi Tombs Complex in Hyderabad and an Award of Merit for the conservation work on the Domakonda Fort, built in the 18th century, in Kamareddy district.

T.N. ordinance on online gambling may lapse today

Time is running out for the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Ordinance, with Governor R.N. Ravi yet to give his assent to the related legislation, which was adopted by the Assembly last month. The ordinance will lapse on Sunday if the Governor does not give his assent to the Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill by then, according to an official.

AICC wants to put a lid on Tharoor's Malabar tour row

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) appeared to put a lid on the controversy surrounding party MP Shashi Tharoor's Malabar tour even though some of the State leaders continue to air their views. "Any Congress leader, any MP, was free to go anywhere, but local units should be kept in the loop. Party norms should be maintained," AICC general secretary Tariq Anwar on Thursday said in Kozhikode, Kerala. Earlier he had said that there was no need of any controversy over Mr. Tharoor's visit.

PSLV-C54 successfully places nine satellites in multiple orbits

Earth observation satellite EOS-06 and eight nanosatellites, including one for Bhutan and commercial entities, constituted the payload

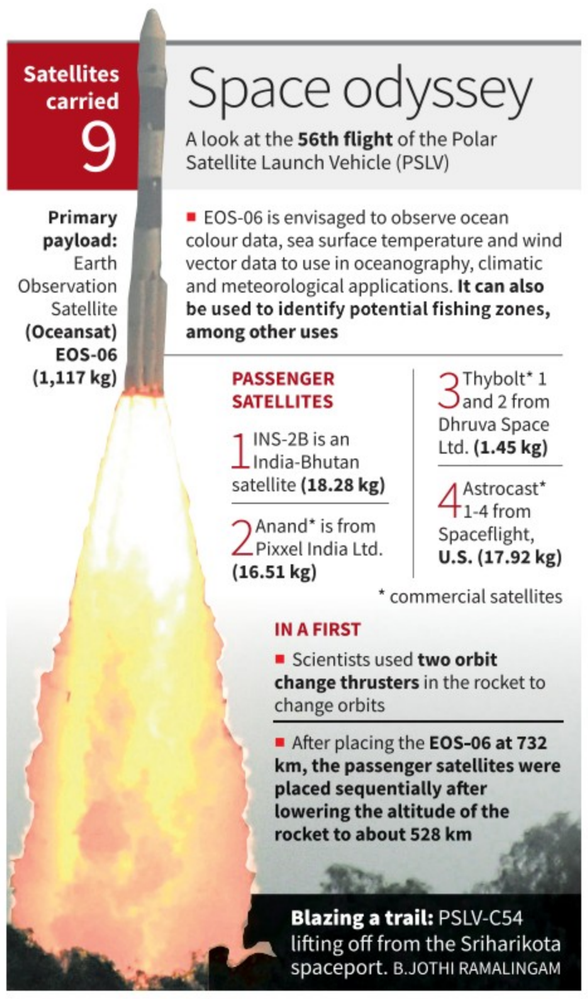
Sangeetha Kandavel
SRIHARIKOTA

In one of its longest missions, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed nine satellites, including an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) in multiple orbits with the help of the space agency's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54). The vehicle took off precisely at 11.56 a.m. on Saturday from the first launch pad (FLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR.

The eight nano satellites include ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand, Astrocast (four satellites), and two Thybolt satellites. Notably, EOS-6 is the Oceansat series' third-generation satellite. This is the 56th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the 24th flight of the PSLV-XL version with 6 PSOM-Xls.

EOS-06 is envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications.

The satellite also supports value added products such as potential fishing zone using chlorophyll, SST and wind speed, and land based geophysical parameters.


Satellites carried 9
Primary payload: Earth Observation Satellite (Oceansat) EOS-06 (1,117 kg)
Space odyssey
A look at the 56th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
EOS-06 is envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications. It can also be used to identify potential fishing zones, among other uses
PASSENGER SATELLITES
1 INS-2B is an India-Bhutan satellite (18.28 kg)
2 Anand* is from Pixxel India Ltd. (16.51 kg)
3 Thybolt* 1 and 2 from Dhruva Space Ltd. (1.45 kg)
4 Astrocast* 1-4 from Spaceflight, U.S. (17.92 kg)
* commercial satellites
IN A FIRST
Scientists used two orbit change thrusters in the rocket to change orbits
After placing the EOS-06 at 732 km, the passenger satellites were placed sequentially after lowering the altitude of the rocket to about 528 km
Blazing a trail: PSLV-C54 lifting off from the Sriharikota spaceport. B.JOTHI RAMALINGAM

ISRO Chairman S.Somanath said that the mission is accomplished and all the satellites have been injected into their intended orbits. "For us, the India-Bhutan satellite is an important milestone in the history of collaboration of Indian and Bhutanese scientists."

A collaborative mission between India and Bhutan, the INS-2B satellite has two payloads namely NanoMx, developed by SAC and APRS-Digipeater.

INDIA-BHUTAN TIES
» NEWS PAGE

Kerala CM flags misuse of constitutional positions

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has flagged the alleged misuse of 'high constitutional office-holders' to pressurise democratically elected governments in the country.

In his Constitution Day message on Saturday, he was also critical of the 'neglect of the fundamental tenet of democracy' that prescribed equal roles for both the Central and State governments in nation-building.

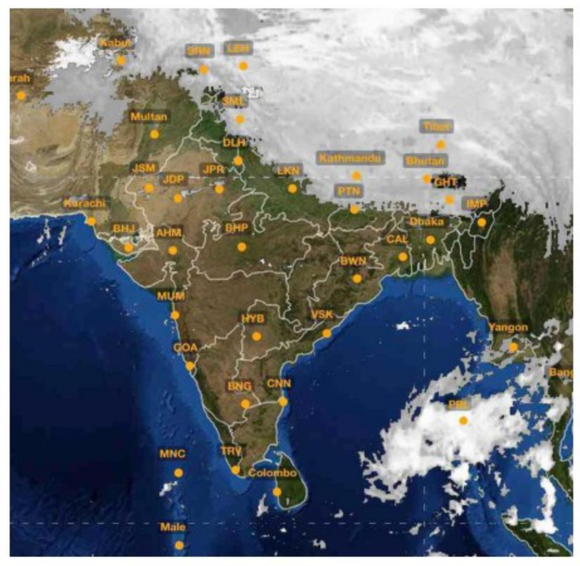
'True federal concept'

His statement was widely interpreted as an oblique reference to the ongoing spat between the State government and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan over the jurisdictional autonomy of State universities and the purported delay in giving assent to Bills passed by the Assembly. Mr. Vijayan, who made veiled references about the NDA government, cautioned against steps being made to determine citizenship on the basis of religion. The values of secularism, democracy and federalism faced serious challenges in the country. He voiced concern about attempts to weaken pluralism and instil a reactionary mindset in the youth by altering curricula, he said.

He also delved into the challenges faced by the Constitution in realising the 'true federal concept' of content States, a strong Centre and functional local governments.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over East Rajasthan. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe and South Interior Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	15.9	Kozhikode	—	33.6	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	31.4	15.2	Kurnool	—	33.7	23.4
Aizawl	—	—	12.9	Lucknow	—	27.3	12.0
Allahabad	—	28.3	11.3	Madurai	—	34.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	28.2	18.8	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.5
Bhopal	—	26.8	10.2	Mumbai	—	32.8	24.6
Bhubaneswar	—	29.9	14.5	Mysuru	—	29.0	19.6
Chandigarh	—	26.3	9.7	New Delhi	—	26.2	10.0
Chennai	—	29.6	22.9	Patna	—	28.2	15.2
Coimbatore	—	31.3	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.9	23.7
Dehradun	—	25.7	10.1	Puducherry	—	32.1	22.2
Gangtok	—	19.2	10.9	Pune	—	31.3	21.3
Goa	—	33.6	24.4	Raipur	—	29.2	10.0
Guwahati	—	29.2	15.4	Ranchi	—	24.9	12.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.9	12.5
Hyderabad	—	31.3	16.7	Shimla	—	20.7	10.0
Imphal	—	26.5	8.3	Srinagar	—	14.0	-1.0
Jaipur	—	28.3	10.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.4	22.4
Kochi	—	31.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	32.1	23.6
Kohima	—	22.2	8.5	Vijayawada	7.0	31.2	23.4
Kolkata	—	28.7	16.7	Visakhapatnam	18.0	29.4	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	..84	11	 40	72	.....
Bengaluru	...8	3	45	 95	94	.....
Chennai	.16	..32	42	... 138	...104	.....
Delhi	.24	107	34	... 390	...309	.....
Hyderabad	...5	..30	37	... 206	.....—	.....
Kolkata	.28	..87	46	... 294	...188	.....
Lucknow	.14	..79	92	... 285	...218	.....
Mumbai	.18	..30	53	... 320	...264	.....
Pune	..—	..69	82	..... —	.....—	.....
Visakhapatnam	.25	..94	27	... 251	...188	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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NMIT'S 12TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT), Bengaluru held its 12th Convocation ceremony, awarding 1,281 students with Graduation and Post-Graduation Certificates. The ceremony was presided over by N. Vinaya Hegde, President of Nitte Education Trust and Chancellor at Nitte Deemed-to-be University. He highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary studies. Dr Vidyashankar S, Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University delivered the graduation day address by enunciating the necessity of innovative ideas. Chandrashekar L of Mechanical Engineering was awarded the Nitte Gulabi Shetty Memorial Gold Medal for scoring the highest CGPA of 9.75 among all students of all branches of the UG program. The Justice K.S. Hegde Memorial Gold Medal for Best Outgoing Boy Student was awarded to Karan R of Computer Science and Engineering. The Nitte Meenakshi Memorial Gold Medal for the Best Outgoing Girl Student was awarded to Alini Christ Paul of Mechanical Engineering. Prof. N.R. Shetty, Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka administered the oath to new graduates as mentioned in Taitiriyopanishad. Dr H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT welcomed the gathering in the beginning. Members of the Governing and Academic Council; Prof. V. Sridhar, Dean (Academics), NMIT and Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust were present on the occasion.

CMR UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 31st FOUNDER'S DAY

CMR University celebrated its 31st Founder's Day on 19 November 2022 by awarding 169 scholarships and 20 leadership awards to students, complying with its founding principles. The University facilitated students with various endowments such as CMR Memorial Merit Scholarships, Sports Scholarships, Leadership Awards and Seva Puraskar. The total scholarship rewards amounted to ₹5.7 Crore for the academic year 2022-23. Inauguration of a new hostel block in its Bagalur Campus along with laying the foundation of Bangalore's first in-campus Animal Shelter also took place. The University also organised various activities on the occasion. D V Sadananda Gowda, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Dr K Sudhakar, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Medical Education, Govt of Karnataka, S R Vishwanath, Member of Legislative Assembly, K Govindaraj, Member of Legislative Council, Dr K C Raju Reddy, Trustee, CMR Jnanadhara Trust, K C Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), Chairman, CMR University & CMR Group of Institutions, and Dr Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor, CMR University were present on the occasion.

AIMS INSTITUTE HOSTS VARIOUS PROGRAMMES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

AIMS Institutes, Peenya, Bangalore, in association with Global Education Leadership Program (GELP) Canada, organized an International Conference on Leadership in Disruptive Times and Global Marketplace for Career and Skill Development on 23 and 24 November 2022. The program was presided over by Dr Kiran Reddy, Founder of AIMS Institutes, alongside Dr Priyanadanan Reddy, COO of AIMS Institutes and Dr Roja Reddy, Director of AIMS Institutes. Research scholars and thought leaders from across the country presented papers in the first session of Day 1, which was followed by two technical sessions. Furthermore, panel discussions on themes of 'The Future of Work' and 'Thinking Globally, Acting Locally' were also conducted. The panels were moderated by Ms Sobhana Jaya Madhavan, Associate Vice President of Simon Fraser University and President of the BC India Business Network, while the list of panellists included reputed corporate leaders and renowned researchers. The institute also conducted three student leadership training workshops on the topics 'Strength in Diverse Perspectives - A Cross-Cultural Perspective'; '21st Century Leadership: Navigating Uncertainty and Conflict with Courage' and 'Diversifying E-Portfolio: Developing Personal Brand.' The two-day event also included a team challenge and competition on Creating Global Change. The Conference concluded with a prize distribution ceremony and the awarding of Certificates to the participants.

RAMAIAH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (RIT) ORGANISES NATIONAL LEVEL HACKATHON, CENTURITON

Commemorating the Centenary Birth Anniversary of Dr M.S. Ramaiah and its Diamond Jubilee year, Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT) is organising CentuRITon, the institute's Flagship National Level Hackathon from 25 to 27 November 2022. The hackathon has been organised in collaboration with Major League Hacking, Devfolio and technical partners such as IBM, Unisys, Dish Network Technologies, and NFThing among many others. Ken Henry, Chief Engineering Vice President at Enterprise Computing Solutions, Unisys, USA will grace the event as the chief guest, while Satish Gurumurthy, Vice President, Head of India Centre at Dish Network Technologies will serve as the guest of honour. Alongside, M R Seetharam, Vice-Chairman at GEF and Director of RIT and M R Ramaiah Secretary of GEF and Director at RIT will also be attending the inaugural ceremony. The 36-hour nonstop hackathon will begin from 5:00 PM on 25th November to 5:00 AM on 27th November 2022. The event will host participants from all over India, who'll be competing for cash prizes worth more than Rs 5 lakhs in 5 exciting tracks.

CM ATTENDS THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF BGS FOUNDER'S DAY AND BGS UTSAV

BGS group of institutions held its 14th Founder's Day and BGS Utsav from 24 and 25 November 2022. The inaugural ceremony of the event was graced by Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka and R. Ashoka, Minister for Revenue excluding Muzrai at the Government of Karnataka. They were accompanied by the former member of parliament and cine actress Ramya, along with minister of co-operation at the Government of Karnataka S T Somashekhar. Anil Kumar Radadiya, Addl. PS to the Health & Family Welfare Minister, Government of India served as the guest of honour for the event. Bommai inaugurated the BGSGIMS library and enunciated the importance of goal setting in a student's life. Somashekhar released the India Book of records, while Ramya inaugurated the BGS Utsav. Honouring the contributions of the BGS staff, Dr Anoop Rubin, Ranganath, Tushara Ramesh, and Raju were facilitated with Sevaratna Award by the organization. Dr Nirmalanandanatha Maha Swamiji, president of Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt, Nagamangala and Dr Prakashnath Swamiji Managing Dinar BGS & SIB Group of Institutions, Bengaluru along with students, teachers and staff attended the event.

From Page One

Recreating sacred groves in north T.N.

The campaign began recently with the distribution and plantation of saplings at the Sri Manjaneeswarar Ayyanar temple at Kilputhupattu near Marakkanam in Villupuram district. Out of the 110 acres of land owned by the temple, 35 acres are sacred groves.

The saplings were collected from Uyir Moochu, a nursery of the Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF), a Puducherry-based non-profit organisation near Morattandi in Villupuram district.

"A mapping exercise identified as many as 115 plant species, including medicinal plants, in the sacred groves in Kilputhupattu. The temple has around 110 acres of land and the idea was to phase out invasive species like eucalyptus and replace them with native species found on the Coromandel coast," an official in the HR and CE Department explains.

According to the Environmental Information System (ENVIS), Puducherry, there are 163 sacred groves on the Marakkanam-Puducherry-Cuddalore stretch. A study on 15 sample groves reported 252 plant species belonging to 176 genera, 62 families, 136 taxa and six lianas.

Apart from the rich species diversity, the groves also host species from some of the last remaining repositories of critically endangered tropical dry evergreen forests (TDEFs). IBF has identified 88 rare, endemic and near-threatened plant species found in TDEFs for conservation. Some of the native species found in the sacred grove in Kilputhupattu include *Kaatu Pinnai* (*Garcenia spicata*), *Karungali* (*Diospyros ebenum*), *Sokkalai* (*Aglaia elaeagnoidea*), *Vaalsura* (*Walsura trifoliolata*), *Veera Maram* (*Drypetes sepiaria*), *Kaatu Naarthai* (*Pamburus missionis*), *Kaatu Elumichai* (*Atalantia monophylla*), *Netti* (*Polyalthia suberosa*) and *Kanu Pala* (*Manilkara hexandra*).

"At Kilputhupattu, the HR and CE Department has put in place restrictions to protect the groves. People don't wear footwear and during festivities... The locals bring their own twigs to make *pongal* and no wood is taken from the sacred groves for fuel," an official says.

"We travelled the length and breadth of the Coromandel coast over the last one-and-a-half years and collected seeds of over 80 rare, endemic and endangered species found in sacred groves and tropical dry evergreen forests in the Eastern Ghats," says S. Vimalraj, a naturalist who is part of the initiative.

According to IBF founder K. Raman, the focus is on recreating sacred groves as well as patches of temple lands, which have a rewilding potential. "The initiative at Kilputhupattu is an example of good conservation practice. The groves remained untouched so far due to religious beliefs, and support several plant and animal species," he says.

Birth certificates to be made mandatory

The Bill to amend the RBD Act, 1969, proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, states that birth certificates issued by the local registrars will be "used to prove the date and place of birth of a person born on or after the date of amendment for: admission into educational institutions; issuance of driving licence; preparation of voter list; registration of marriage; appointment in Central government, State government, local bodies and public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, autonomous bodies under Central and State government; issuance of passport and other cases as prescribed by rules."

Suggestions included

"The draft Bill was placed in the public domain for suggestions last year. We have received comments from State governments and incorporated the required changes. The legislative department is examining the Bill, and it will then be presented for the Union Cabinet's approval. We will try to introduce the Bill in the winter session of Parliament," a source told *The Hindu*.

The source added that since the upcoming session has only 17 sittings, the discussions on the Bill could be taken up in the next session.

"Provisions exist for compulsory registration of births and deaths but after the law is amended, it will be mandatory to produce birth and death certificates for myriad purposes. The database will be linked to electoral rolls. When a person turns 18, the name will be included in the voters' list and after a person has died, the name will be deleted from the rolls. The entire process will be online," the source said.

The Hindu first reported on October 27, 2021 that the draft amendments would enable the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the MHA to "maintain database of registered birth and deaths at the national level", even though such data is maintained by State governments or municipal bodies. As reported, the birth and death database at the national level that will be available with the RGI may be used to update the Population Register, the Electoral Register, and the Aadhaar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases.

The MHA is upgrading the Civil Registration System (CRS) to enable registration of births and deaths in real time with minimum human interface.

If the amendments are implemented, the Centre could use the data to update the National Population Register (NPR) that was first prepared in 2010 and revised through door-to-door enumeration in 2015. The NPR already has a database of 119 crore residents and under the Citizenship Rules, 2003, it is the first step towards the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Amid garlic and groundnut, there is little certainty in Saurashtra's political harvest

It remains to be seen if the AAP's high-pitched campaign or the Congress's low-key outing will succeed in leveraging grievances against the BJP, even as farmers raise issues such as rising costs, lower profits and late power supply; Narendra Modi's popularity, however, continues to hold sway

Sandeep Phukan
GONDAL (RAJKOT)

Amid neatly arranged bags of dried garlic and heaps of groundnut at the Gondal agricultural produce marketing committee (APMC) market, a group of farmers are relaxing after selling their produce on a Saturday afternoon.

At the biggest agricultural hub in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, barely 35 km from Rajkot city, there are hardly any signs of the Assembly election to be held on December 1.

With 48 out of the State's 182 Assembly seats, the region is important for all parties. For the Congress, it is crucial to repeat as many as possible of its 2017 tally of 28 seats from here. The BJP is focused on wresting back its support, and the Aam Aadmi Party has emerged as the new challenger.

Asked about the issues dominating these elections, the group of farmers get into an animated discussion before giving out their views.

Money matters: At the Gondal APMC market, price of groundnut has dropped to ₹1,170 for 20 kg, where it used to be ₹1,400-1,500. Cost of production, however, has only gone up. VIJAY SONEJI

Falling farm profits

"We [farmers] are unhappy about the prices that our commodities fetch. Our cost of production is going up, be it diesel or fertilizer, but the rates are lower than what we used to get," says Jamanbhai Sanghani, a farmer from Kalavad who owns 6.5 hectares of land. "Today, I have had to sell groundnut for ₹1,170 for 20 kg, whereas earlier it would sell at ₹1,400-1,500," he adds.

Bhanjibhai Mavji, a farmer from Visaman village of Paddhari taluka, complains about the timing of the power supply to run their pump sets. "Power supply is given post midnight, sometimes at 1 a.m. We don't get to sleep since we have to ensure that our fields are watered when there is power," he says, adding that the BJP had promised to supply agricultural power during the daytime but has not yet delivered.

Two other farmers speak about the importance of free power and higher education that is subsidised by the government. "The Dilli party has promised this in Gujarat also," one of them says, referring to the AAP.

Contrasting campaigns

In the 2017 Assembly election, the Congress's impressive performance was driven by rural voters, the bulk of whom are farmers. However, a high-pitched campaign by the AAP and a relatively low-key one by the Congress has changed the public discourse about who is the challenger to the BJP's 27-year-old rule in the State this time around.

Bhanjibhai, a supporter of the Congress, says that the party is raising issues among people through door-to-door campaigns and *khatla parishad* or *charpoy* meetings.

"People are angry over inflation and the cost of living, but the BJP doesn't even want to talk. Only the Congress is raising these issues," he says.

Barely 50 metres away, a group of traders, who buy agricultural commodities in auctions at the Gondal APMC market, acknowledges both the anti-incumbency sentiment and the allegations of corruption among junior functionaries of the BJP.

No credible alternative

However, they argue that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and the lack of any credible alternative gives the BJP a clear edge.

"There are problems in every party and there may be some issues with the BJP as well. But as a Hindu, I feel I cannot vote for any other party," says Pravinbhai Patel, who trades in garlic, coriander and cumin seeds.

His friend Popatbhai Vaghasiya, who owns a factory for dehydrating onion and garlic, however, takes a more nuanced view. "These elections are not as easy as it seems and the BJP cannot be complacent," he says, referring to the rather silent mood of the voters on the ground.

Jawan guns down two colleagues on Gujarat election duty

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Two jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on election duty in Gujarat's Porbandar district were killed, and two others were injured, after their colleague opened fire over an unknown issue.

The injured are being treated at a government hospital.

The jawans belonged to a CRPF battalion from Manipur and were sent to Porbandar for Assembly election duty.

Before the firing, there was allegedly a clash among the jawans and one person resorted to firing from his official firearm.

Voting in Porbandar district will be held on December 1 in the first phase.

District Collector A.M. Sharma said the matter was being investigated.

"A jawan opened fire from his assault rifle on his colleagues over some unknown issue on Saturday evening. While two jawans died on the spot, two others were injured," Mr. Sharma told local media.

He added that among the two injured, one received a bullet injury in his stomach while the other was hit on his leg.

(With inputs from PTI)

Anti-radicalisation cell, civil code feature in BJP's manifesto in Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), creation of an anti-radicalisation cell to identify and eliminate potential threats and sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces, and a new law for the recovery of damages of public and private properties during riotsm violent protests and unrest from anti-social elements are some of the promises in the BJP's manifesto for Gujarat.

Released on Saturday, it has promised to make the State a $1-trillion economy and provide girls with free education.

Pre-poll exercise: Bhupendra Patel, J.P. Nadda and C.R. Patil with the newly released manifesto in Gujarat on Saturday. PTI

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and BJP president J.P. Nadda released the party's manifesto called the *Sankalp Patra*.

The BJP's Gujarat manifesto also promised free education for girls from pre-primary to post-graduate levels, free electric scooter and other sops such as creating 20 lakh government jobs and providing health insurance cover of ₹10 lakh.

Gujarat is the fourth State so far where the ruling party has talked of implementing the UCC either before the election or in the run-up to the polls. Earlier, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Karnataka also raised the issue of UCC, with Uttarakhand and Gujarat setting up a committee for it.

The party promises an ₹80,000-crore Shyamji Krishna Varma Renewable Energy Mission, expansion of Gujarat's irrigation network at a cost of ₹25,000 crore, and creation of Gujarat Agriculture Infrastructure Cell with an investment of ₹10,000 crore.

U.P. likely to hold meeting on madrasa survey soon

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is likely to hold a meeting on the madrasa survey in two or three weeks, to discuss ways to improve the educational environment in the religious schools, and provide students access to modern study tools.

"The survey has found that 8,496 madrasas are unrecognised. In the coming weeks we will hold a meeting to discuss various points of the survey and key takeaways. We will use this to improve the condition of students accessing education in these institutions," Danish Azad Ansari, Junior Minister for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj, told *The Hindu*.

The U.P. government also said it is not considering any madrasa as illegal or fake, clarified Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, chairman, Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education. Only a few people who were misleading the masses have been disappointed with the survey, he added.

Jamaat properties worth ₹90 crore barred from usage

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The move is to choke availability of funds for secessionist activities, says State Investigation Agency

The State Investigation Agency (SIA), a special wing of the J&K Police, on Saturday listed 11 properties of banned outfit Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and barred it from usage and entry in Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

The properties estimated at ₹90 crore were notified and subsequently confiscated by the District Magistrate, Anantnag, after a recommendation was made to the court by the SIA on Saturday.

The SIA said the move was to choke availability of funds for secessionist activities and dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty. They notified the properties after exercising powers conferred under Section 8 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. "Red entry to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records," the SIA said.

The notified properties included residential houses in Bijbehara, an orchard land in Rakhi Moman Danjipora area, a shopping complex in Arwani village and a commercial-cum-residential structure in Jablipora village.

A land plot in the name of Jamaat-e-Islami Amiri Zilla Ghulam Ahmad Paddey from Bijbehara was also sealed. So was the Iqra English Medium School, Srigufwara.

"This has a lot of significance vis-à-vis Jamaat activities. This will end up in crescendo, as the fight against terror networks, unlawful associations progresses. The action would uproot the menace of terror funding to a great extent in the UT of J&K besides being a stepping stone in ensuring rule of law and a society without fear," the SIA said.

SIA questions ex-Hurriyat chief Abdul Gani Bhat

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The State Investigation Agency (SIA), a wing of the J&K Police, on Saturday questioned former Hurriyat chairman and Muslim Conference chief Abdul Gani Bhat, 83, in a cross-border funding case. An official said Mr. Bhat was questioned for around seven hours at the Joint Interrogation Centre, Jammu, in a militancy-funding case.

His questioning has come following the arrest of former Minister Jitendar Singh, alias Babu Singh, in April this year.

The SIA has also filed a chargesheet against Mr. Singh and three others in a terror funding case. Mr. Singh headed the Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party. "Mr. Singh was in touch with the terrorists of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen outfit and separatists of JKLF, an unlawful association," the SIA said.

The vision of his party "was to make J&K, PoK and Gilgit Baltistan as one independent country...," according to the SIA.

Kargil hill council passes resolution for Ladakh's Statehood

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K), an elected body of the Union Territory of Ladakh, has passed a joint resolution and demanded Statehood and special status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for the region.

At least 21 members of the 30-member Council supported the resolution moved by executive councillor Punchok Tashi on Friday.

The joint resolution demanded full-fledged Statehood for Ladakh, protection under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, separate Lok Sabha seats for Kargil and Leh districts and establishment of the Ladakh Public Service Commission with Ladakh Resident Certificate as a mandatory requirement for all gazetted posts.

"After the reorganisation of the State of J&K, there has been a greater resentment among the general masses of Ladakh regarding the representation of the public in the government. It has given rise to apprehensions among the public with regards to safeguard of land, job, culture and ecology. There is a need of providing full-fledged statehood to Ladakh keeping in view of its strategic importance, unique culture, and population," reads the resolution.

'A historic day'

Referring to the special now-revoked provisions granting special status to J&K under Article 370 and 35-A, the resolution said, "The protections provided regarding land, culture, jobs, and ecology were no more there. Hence, it has been unanimously agreed across all strata of Ladakh UT that only the sixth schedule of the Constitution can ensure due protection."

Mr. Tashi termed the passing of the resolution as "a historic day".

"The resolution was accepted by the majority councilors of the LAHDC," he said.

Murmu, Modi laud women's role in drafting Constitution

President says the Constitution gave a map for good governance and one of its most crucial features is separation of powers; Prime Minister says it is open, futuristic and visionary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the contribution of women in the Constituent Assembly which drafted the Constitution was hardly discussed and efforts should be made to educate future generations about their work. He described the Constitution as open, futuristic, visionary and youth-centric.

At the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court, Mr. Modi said 15 members of the Constituent Assembly were women. One of them, Dakshayini Velayudhan, who belonged to a marginalised community, made important interventions to protect the rights of the oppressed classes, he said.

Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and the other women members too had contributed significantly on topics related to women, Mr. Modi said.

President Droupadi Murmu too echoed the view at the valedictory function of the event.

Ceremonious: PM Narendra Modi at the Constitution Day celebrations in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

She said the onus to make the process of seeking justice affordable is on all of us, while urging the executive, judiciary and legislature to evolve an effective dispute resolution mechanism to mitigate people's plight.

She said the Constitution gave a map for good governance and one of its most crucial features is the doctrine of separation of functions and powers of the three organs of the state – the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. It has been the hallmark of our Republic that the three organs have respected the boundaries set in place by the Constitution, Ms. Murmu said.

Reaching out

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud highlighted the need for the judiciary to reach out to the people, especially the marginalised, rather than the other way around.

He highlighted the importance of technology in justice administration and the need to have more representation from the marginalised communities in the legal profession. "The marginalised were the first to bring ideas of equality and liberty into the Indian law. The first wave of resistance against colonial power came from indigenous communities," he said.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani stressed the need for a litigation policy for the government. He said the government should be dissuaded from taking every contest to the Supreme Court. The highest constitutional court of the country should not be treated like a small cause court.

"It is important that the government stops overloading the Supreme Court with endless statutory appeals alongside the huge flow of cases from High Courts. The conversion of the Supreme Court into a small cause court must stop," the top law officer said.

Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

Congress says PM is subverting Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said the Constitution was facing a fundamental and existential crisis, and blamed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for it. The party said the RSS subverted the Constitution daily.

In a statement on Constitution Day, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Constitution was facing an existential crisis for the spirit behind its text. "This crisis finds its roots in the RSS's ever-expanding reach within state institutions and the electoral (and by extension judicial) legitimacy of its ideology, with the BJP being in power since 2014," he said.

Senior leader Jairam Ramesh said ideological fountainheads of the BJP had nothing to do in making the Constitution. "In fact the RSS was opposed to the Constitution of India. Desperately wanting to show that he respects the Constitution – while he subverts it daily in letter and spirit – the Prime Minister decided to celebrate November 26 as Constitution Day. This is sheer hypocrisy," he said.

Constitution is a living voice, Congress will protect it at all costs, says Rahul Gandhi

Varghese K. George
MHOW

The Indian Constitution, for the first time in the history of the land, gave the same rights to all its inhabitants, and the Congress will protect it at all costs, party leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday.

"The Constitution is a force, a voice, an inspiration. It is a living voice. The BJP wants to extinguish that voice, but it knows that it cannot reject it openly ... They are trying to undermine it," Mr. Gandhi said, addressing a party rally.

Mr. Gandhi said he took a detour from the route of his foot march, the Bharat Jodo Yatra, to address the rally to mark Constitution Day at the birthplace of B.R. Ambedkar, near Indore, in Madhya Pradesh.

The Dalit leader served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. Mr. Gandhi said India's founding leaders overcame fear and created a unifying vision for the country that his party implemented through various policies while in government.

Rahul Gandhi. PTI

"Those who fear cannot love and those who love cannot fear. Those who fear, hate, and those who hate, fear," Mr. Gandhi said, recalling the personal tragedies of the loss of his grandmother Indira Gandhi and father Rajiv Gandhi to violence.

"I can tell you that I do not have an iota of hatred towards anyone. I do fight the politics of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, but I have no hatred for them. I do not fear, and the people who have joined me in this yatra also have overcome fear."

Mr. Gandhi said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was infiltrating institutions, including the media, to advance its philosophy, and it paid lip service to Dr. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi. "No policy of the BJP government has helped the poor people of this country," he said, citing demonetisation and GST as examples. The Congress leader said the Modi government was only enriching a handful of corporations, while small industries were struggling to stay afloat.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the RSS and the BJP were weakening the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. "We will end up in slavery again if we don't stand up to protect the Constitution," he said.

Participants in the rally took a pledge to protect the Constitution. Mr. Kharge pointed out that by giving everyone the right to vote, the Indian Constitution promoted justice and development for all, but Dr. Ambedkar had warned of the dangers that the RSS-BJP poses today.

Mr. Gandhi's yatra was to uphold the constitutional values of justice and harmony, said Kamal Nath, former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Uttarakhand hires McKinsey to help reach GDP target

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A two-year agreement was signed under the Shashakt Uttarakhand mission

Uttarakhand has hired McKinsey, a global management consultancy, to help the Himalayan State in achieving the target of doubling its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the next five years.

The State has the target of doubling GSDP from ₹2.73 lakh crore to ₹5.5 lakh crore by achieving a CAGR of 15% in the next five years.

The government has signed a two-year agreement with the company under the Shashakt (empowered) Uttarakhand mission. The company will work in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, Urban (brownfield and greenfield cities), service sector, and infra projects (core and social sectors) to accelerate the income of the people and of the State.

Secretary (Planning) R. Meenakshi Sundaram said that in the first six months, the company will select the sectors where progress is needed through new investments and reforms. "It will also bring renowned companies to invest in the identified areas in the remaining year and a half in the State. The agency will invest in increasing the yield of crops and products and improving their quality," he said.

Mr. Sundaram added that the company will also work to provide export market for the products.

Commenting on the plan of ambitious economic growth, Chief Minister Pushkar Sinh Dhami has said that the State government is committed to developing Uttarakhand as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dreams.

Elgar Parishad case: two years on, Anand Teltumbde walks out of jail

Sonam Saigal
MUMBAI

Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, was on Saturday released from the Taloja Central Prison in Navi Mumbai a day after the Supreme Court rejected the National Investigation Agency's plea challenging his bail. Professor Teltumbde, 73, who spent two-and-a-half years in prison in the case, walked out of the jail around 1.15 p.m.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) court issued the release memo on Friday evening. Special judge R.J. Katariya permitted him eight weeks' time to furnish a cash bond of ₹1 lakh. He is directed to stay in Mumbai, within the jurisdiction of the court.

Breathing free: Anand Teltumbde after his release from the Taloja Central Prison in Navi Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

On Friday morning, a Division Bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli at the Supreme Court dismissed the special leave petition filed by the NIA challenging the bail granted to Professor Teltumbde by the Bombay High Court on November 18.

The High Court's Bench of Justices A.S. Gadkari and Milind Jadhav noted, "*Prima facie*, the only case made out against him relates to alleged association with a terror outfit and support given to it, for which the maximum punishment is 10 years in jail, and he has already spent more than two years in prison."

(With PTI inputs)

BJP, Cong. spar over Rahul's *aarti* video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words ensued on social media on Saturday after BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya posted a video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi performing *aarti,* which he said was being done in an "anti-clockwise" way.

Fact-checkers and Congress leaders pointed out that Mr. Gandhi was performing the ritual in a clockwise fashion and posted videos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi doing it in a similar manner.

Congress social media department head Supriya Shrinate tweeted two videos side by side of Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Modi doing *aarti* and asked, "Is it ok now?".

Ms. Shrinate said it was due to lateral inversion that the image appeared anti-clockwise.

Trade unions to boycott pre-Budget meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ten Central Trade Unions (CTUs) have decided to boycott a virtual pre-Budget meeting which Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had scheduled with them on Monday. The unions said they were just provided three minutes each with the Minister and demanded a physical meeting. They said the communication from the Ministry made it clear that each union would be get three minutes to speak. Joining the debate, CPI MP Binoy Viswam said that limiting the meeting time was an arbitrary move.

The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005, Phone: 0141-2227079 Fax: 0141-2227257, CIN- U91110RJ1961SGC001118

E-tender BID Invitation Notice 26/2022-23
SUPPLY OF TENTS & TARPAULINES

RSIC is inviting online competitive BIDS from SSI Units who are registered with Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan for supply of Tent & Tarpaulins to the Department of the Government of Rajasthan, PSUs, etc. on rate contract basis for the period of one year. The Tender/Bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Last date of submission of online bids is 12.12.2022 till 1.00 PM.For further details visit our website : **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico**; **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. **UBN : RSI2223GLRC00026**

Raj.Samwad/C/22/10877 Managing Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 46,47,48,49/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA,50/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA(RT-1). **1) JJM-5th SWSM** - Supply & Laying distribution in Kalanjoor Panchayath and Providing 3000 FHTCs including road restoration work. **2) JJM-5th SLSSC** - Providing 5489 FHTCs in Kodumon panchayath by extension and relaying of pipe line including road restoration work. **3) JJM - 5th SLSSC** - Supplying and laying of distribution system and providing 4507 FHTCs in Mezhuveli Panchayat line including road restoration work. **4) JJM -5th SLSSC -** Providing 1348 FHTC`s in Naranammoozhy Panchayath from ongoing schemes, extension of pipeline - including road restoration work. **5) JJM - 5th SLSSC -** Providing 2617 FHTC`s and Pipeline extensions in all wards of Kunnamthanam Panchayath including supply and erection of pumpset and road restoration works. **EMD** : Rs. 500000, 500000, 500000, 200000, 200000. **Tender fee** : Rs. 17700, 17700, 17700, 11800, 11800. **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 15-12-2022, 02:00 p.m. **Phone** : 04692600162. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Pathanamthitta
KWA-JB-GL-6-1126-2022-23

RAJASTHAN CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY FEDERATION LIMITED
"SARAS SANKUL", J.L.N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017, Phone No. 0141-2702501-508: Telefax 0141-2702135, Website : sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in E-mail : dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in, proj-rcdf-rj@gov.in

No. : RCDF/DPM&Proj./C-4008/2022-23/44667-700 Dated : 23/11/2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tenders are invited for "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 'IBT, Falling Film Chiller, Ammonia PHE, R.O System, Allied Automation,and Modification of Refrigeration Plant at Hanumangarh Dairy' (UBN: CDF2223WSOB01088), 'Seed Processing Plant, Capacity 2 TPH at Kota Dairy' (UBN: CDF2223WSOB01089), 'Elevator inclusive of Civil works at old Dairy Plant, Ajmer' on turn key basis" (UBN: CDF2223WSOB01092), "Construction of Barmer Dairy Plant" (UBN: CDF2223WSOB01090), "Various civil work and sheet replacement at CFP Bikaner" (UBN: CDF2223WSOB01091). The estimated cost of above works are Rs. 84.00 Lac 32.70 Lac, 25.00 Lac, 374.50 Lac, 118.70 Lac respectively. Details can be obtained from our website: **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in**; **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, and **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** i.e. spp portal.

Raj.Samwad/C/22/10860 General Manager (DPM & Projects)
जीवन में हरे रस-हमारा प्यारा

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

ADMISSION TO THE
POSTGRADUATE COURSES – 2023 SESSION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following postgraduate degree/diploma courses of Ranchi University commencing from May, 2023. An All India Entrance Examination will be conducted through ONLINE mode at the following cities of this Country (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore & Ranchi).

GROUP A	
1. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology	: 4 seats (NO RESERVATION)
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: M.Phil. (Medical & Social Psychology/ Clinical Psychology) from a University recognized by the UGC
2. M.Phil. in Clinical Psychology	: 21 seats (UR-09, EWS-01, OBC-06, SC-03, ST-02) **(PwD-01)**
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology course from a University recognized by the UGC With minimum 55% marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST & OBC in aggregate.
GROUP B	
3. M.Phil. in Psychiatric Social Work	: 15 seats (UR-06, EWS-01, OBC-05, SC-02, ST-01) **(PwD-01)**
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: Masters in Social Work course from University recognized by the UGC with minimum 55% Marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST and OBC in aggregate.
GROUP C	
4. Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing	: 23 seats (UR-10, EWS-02, OBC-06, SC-03, ST-02) **(PwD-01)**
Duration	: One year
Qualification	: 'A' Grade Certificate or Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery.

Group A & B: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 25,000/- per month.
Group C: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 2500/- per month.
The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY on internet through CIP website: www.cipranchi.nic.in on or before December 31, 2022. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Online Payment fee of Rs.1000/- for Unreserved, EWS and Rs. 500/-** for OBC, PwD, SC and ST candidates. (**Transactional charges will be extra from the above-said fee structure via Debit Card, Credit Card, UPI Payment, Net Banking & Mobile Wallets.) Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable.**
Online form will be available on our website (www.cipranchi.nic.in) from 01.12.2022. Online Examination will be held on **19.02.2023** and interview/practical would be held in person at CIP between **13th to 15th March, 2023**. Session will commence from 01st May, 2023. Last date for joining the courses is **May 31st, 2023**.
Please visit www.cipranchi.nic.in for downloading the prospectus with requisite details before filling the ONLINE application form.

Director
Central Institute of Psychiatry

विज्ञापन सं. डी.एस._ IX-14011/1/2022-अनुभाग_9-अं.वि.(1) दिनांक:27/11/2022
Advertisement No. DS IX-14011/1/2022-Section 9-DOS (1) Dated: 27/11/2022

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

नन्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (एनसिल), बेंगलूरु, जोकि अंतरिक्ष के क्षेत्र में अनुसूची 'क' सी.पी.एस.ई. है, में तत्काल आमेलन के आधार पर निदेशक (तकनीकी तथा कार्यनीति) के एक पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Applications are invited for the **post of Director (Technical & Strategy)** in NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Bengaluru, a Schedule 'A' CPSE in the Space sector, on immediate absorption basis.
आवेदन प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि **26/12/2022** है।

The last date for receipt of application is **26/12/2022.**
अधिक जानकारी के लिए, वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** पर करियर लिंक देखें।
For details, visit the website www.isro.gov.in under the link "Careers".
इस विज्ञापन से संबंधित परिशिष्ट/शुद्धिपत्र, यदि कोई हो, केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Addendum / corrigendum to this Advertisement, if any, will be published only in the above website.

विज्ञापन सं. डी.एस._ IX-14011/2/2022-अनुभाग_9-अं.वि.(2) दिनांक: 27/11/2022
Advertisement No. DS_IX-14011/2/2022-Section_9-DOS (2) Dated: 27/11/2022

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (एनसिल), बेंगलूरु, जोकि अंतरिक्ष के क्षेत्र में अनुसूची 'क' सी.पी.एस.ई. है, में तत्काल आमेलन के आधार पर निदेशक (वित्त) के एक पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Applications are invited for the **post of Director (Finance)** in NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Bengaluru, a Schedule 'A' CPSE in the Space sector, on immediate absorption basis.
आवेदन प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 26/12/2022 है।

The last date for receipt of application is 26/12/2022.
अधिक जानकारी के लिए, वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** पर "करियर" लिंक देखें।
For details, visit the **website www.isro.gov.in** under the link "Careers".
इस विज्ञापन से संबंधित परिशिष्ट/शुद्धिपत्र, यदि कोई हो, केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Addendum/corrigendum to this Advertisement, if any, will be published only in the above website.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(TW WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742336, FAX: (0291) 2745259

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for work as detailed hereunder:

Tender No.	Name of Work	UBN No.
TNTW-655	"Supply & Erection of material for interconnection of 04 Nos. of 33 KV feeder (44.79 km) from 132/33 KV GSS JERAN under Dhumbariya Sub-Division and 02 Nos. of 33 KV feeder (13 km) from 132/33 KV GSS JERAN under Bhinmal Sub-Division Circle Jalore on Turnkey basis"	JVV2223WSOB00410

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
NOTE : Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices / information regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl**.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/10869 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

‘India has enough fertilizer stock to meet rabi requirement’

The government is not dependent on one country for supplies and there are measures in place to broad-base sources to hedge against any shortage, says the Union Fertilizers Secretary

INTERVIEW

Arun Singhal

A.M. Jigeesh

With the sowing for the rabi season at its peak, the demand for fertilizers is set to increase. The country needs 650 lakh tonnes every year, almost two lakh tonnes a day. Amid reports of a supply crunch and rise in prices due to the Ukraine war, Union Fertilizers Secretary Arun Singhal says the country has sufficient stock to meet the rabi requirement. Excerpts:

Has the Ukraine war affected the availability of fertilizers in India?

Our trade, on the contrary, with Russia has gone up. It has gone up many times because fertilizer is not a sanctioned item. But we go to many countries for our supplies. We are not dependent on one country. The basic thing we do to guard against such situations is to broad-base our sources or supplies. Recently, Belarus was not able to supply fertilizers to us because of the war. But we absorbed that shock because there were MoUs with other countries.

The rabi season is at its peak. What is your assurance to farmers?

There is no shortage of any fertilizers in the country today. For example, for urea, the total requirement of the season is 180 lakh

tonnes. We started the season with an opening stock of 55 lakh tonnes. We have already sold 50 lakh tonnes of the demand. So 130 lakh tonnes remains to be sold in the next four months. As of now, we have a stock of 58 lakh tonnes. We produce 23 lakh tonnes every month.

For DAP, the requirement is 55 lakh tonnes for the entire season. We already sold almost 29 lakh tonnes. More than half of the demand has already been met. We have a stock of 17.72 lakh tonnes. We are producing and importing DAP, which goes on throughout the season.

For NPK, the demand is 57 lakh tonnes. We have sold 19 lakh tonnes so far. We have stocks of 29.78 lakh tonnes now. We keep on adding every month.

Similarly, MOP requirement was 14.34 lakh tonnes. We have sold 3.58 lakh tonnes so far. Current stock is 7.6 lakh tonnes. So for all the four major fertilizers, there is no shortage at all. Prices are also stable.

Is the Centre increasing public investment in the fertilizers sector? Is it because of the global situation?

As far as the impact of Russia-Ukraine crisis is concerned, no fertilizer manufacturer can survive without government subsidy. There is no reason to manufacture in the government sector. The decision to revive five units has nothing to do with Russia-Ukraine war.

So will the global situation increase the fertilizer subsidy?

The fertilizer subsidy could go up to ₹2.5 lakh crore. The global situation is the reason. We will request Finance Ministry to increase the subsidy this year.

How do you see the demand for direct transfer of fertilizer subsidy to farmers?

A small farmer is not a cash rich person. For him to come with the full cost of fertilizers and get it reimbursed later on is a painful thing.

For one hectare, the non-subsidised cost would be around ₹20,000. Even if we transfer the subsidy within a day, it is difficult for the farmer.

(Full interview at bit.ly/arunsinghal)

INBRIEF

Shinde and team return to Kamakhya Temple for prayers

A 176-member team headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday paid a “gratitude visit” to the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati. The team included his Ministers, MLAs, MPs and senior leaders of the Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena. “We came here to have a darshan of Maa Kamakhya as a mark of gratitude,” Mr. Shinde said after visiting the temple. Mr. Shinde and 39 other rebel Shiv Sena and Independent MLAs had sought the blessings of the goddess before forming the new government in the State five months ago.

Aftab Poonawala’s police custody ends, sent to Tihar

A local court sent murder accused Aftab Poonawala to 13-day judicial custody after his police remand expired on Saturday. He has been sent to Tihar Jail, officers said. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said the police had initiated the legal process for producing Mr. Poonawala for further polygraph test sessions.The police are yet to receive the DNA test report in connection with the murder case, an officer said. According to the police, blood samples of Walkar’s father and brother have been collected for DNA matching.

Meghalaya group burns Amit Shah’s effigy, stages protest

Members of an umbrella of pressure groups in Meghalaya called the ‘Save Hynniewtrep Mission’ on Saturday burnt effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others to protest the government’s failure in resolving the State’s 50-year-old border conflict with Assam. They also staged a protest outside the residence of Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma in Shillong. Hynniewtrep is associated with the pride of the Khasis, an ethnic community in Meghalaya.

SUDOKU

	8					3		
1	7			3	8	4		2
9	2		7					
7	5		9		3			
			6		4		2	1
					1		3	9
5		2	3	9			4	6
		8					1	

No.SS5631 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

3	8	4	9	1	7	5	6	2
9	7	6	2	8	5	1	4	3
1	2	5	3	4	6	8	9	7
7	1	8	5	3	9	6	2	4
4	9	3	8	6	2	7	1	5
5	6	2	1	7	4	9	3	8
8	4	7	6	2	1	3	5	9
2	5	1	7	9	3	4	8	6
6	3	9	4	5	8	2	7	1

Centre takes G-20 diplomats to Andaman for preview briefing

Officials briefed on ‘logistical preparations’ a week ahead of India assuming the presidency of the grouping; they were informed on the country’s policy priorities during the G-20 process, and issues it hopes to highlight

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

More than 40 diplomats and officials from the UN and other multilateral organisations were briefed on “logistical preparations” for the G-20 process during a curtain-raiser organised by the Union government at a resort on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Saturday.

The event comes a week before India formally assumes the presidency of the G-20, a grouping of the world’s largest economies. The G-20 summit in 2023 will see leaders of the U.S., the U.K., France, Russia, China and others travel to Delhi.

Sources said that one of the key events, the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (FMM), would be held in March 2023, while the summit would be held in Delhi in September 2023.

Lead-up: Delegates at a special briefing on India assuming the G-20 presidency, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Saturday. PTI

During an “interactive briefing” by India’s G-20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, G-20 National Coordinator Harsh Shringla and other officials, the government’s G-20 Secretariat gave the invitees details of upcoming meetings and arrangements being made, as well as India’s policy priorities during the G-20 process, and issues it hopes to highlight.

“Made a presentation to all Ambassadors & Head of Missions on G-20, India’s growth & development story and how we plan to make our Presidency ambitious, action oriented and decisive,” Mr. Kant said in a series of tweets, where he posted photos of the group in Andaman.

“Apt to hold this event in the beautiful & historic Swaraj Dweep, as India is on the cusp of taking over G-20 Presidency from our neighbour across the Andaman Sea,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on social media, referring to Indonesia, the G-20 host for 2022.

India’s presidency will mark the first time that the “Troika” or hosts of three consecutive years: Indonesia, India and Brazil, all belong to emerging countries.

Ensuring attendance

In particular, India will focus on managing divisions over the war in Ukraine that held up much of the G-20 process in 2022, and led to threats of a boycott by the U.S. and European leaders, and eventually the Russian President decided to skip the summit. One of the reasons for taking all the Ambassadors to this pre-G-20 event on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was to emphasise the need for them to ensure all leaders attend the summit in India.

The visit also highlights the government’s decision to hold many of the G-20’s 200-odd events in different parts of India, across 50 locations, rather than holding them in one venue.

The Ambassadors and other diplomats, who flew in a specially chartered flight from Delhi, travelled to Swaraj Deep (Havelock) island on Friday, after a tour of the Cellular Jail in Port Blair, which housed freedom fighters during the British Raj. On Saturday, they participated in yoga class and a beach-cleaning exercise.

Vikram Gokhale

Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale passes away

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vikram Gokhale (77), veteran film, television and stage actor, passed away in a Pune hospital on Saturday following multi-organ failure. He is survived by his wife Vrushali and two daughters. A national award and Sangeet Natak Akademi award recipient, Mr. Gokhale was born in an illustrious family devoted to the arts but with modest means. He was a fourth-generation actor. His great-grandmother Durgabai Kamat is considered the first female actor in Indian cinema.

Himalayan nomads rearing the animal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Himalayan yak gets food animal tag; milk and meat to be used

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Himalayan yak has earned the food animal tag from the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).

The categorisation is expected to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.

Mihir Sarkar, Director of the National Research Centre on Yak (NRC-Y) based in Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh, said his institution had submitted a proposal to the FSSAI in 2021 for considering the yak as a food animal.

The FSSAI responded with an official approval a few days ago after a recommendation from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

“The yak plays a multi-dimensional socio-cultural-economic role for the pastoral nomads who rear it mainly for earning their nutritional and livelihood security due to the lack of other agricultural activity in the higher reaches of the region where it is difficult for animals except the yak to survive,” Mr. Sarkar said.

According to a census carried out in 2019, India has some 58,000 yaks - a drop of about 25% from the livestock census of 2012. The drastic decline could be attributed to less remuneration from the bovid and discouraging the younger generations from continuing with nomadic yak rearing. The sale of yak milk and meat is limited to local consumers.

NRC-Y scientists believe the commercialisation of yak milk and meat products will lead to entrepreneurship development. “The recognition will help farmers rear the yak economically and open up several vistas of economic benefits for both farmers and food processors,” Mr. Sarkar said.

‘New era in Indo-Bhutan ties with SAT’

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The launch of a joint India-Bhutan satellite among nine satellites launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday marks a “new era” in relations between the two countries, said Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Bhutan’s Information and Communications Minister Karma Donnen Wangdi led a delegation to Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh to witness the launch of the “India-Bhutan SAT” or ISRO Nano Satellite 2 for Bhutan (INS-2B) aboard the PSLV-C54 that has been jointly developed by scientists from both countries.

India had assisted in training Bhutanese engineers for satellite building and testing, as well as on processing and analysing satellite data that will be received, the Ministry of External Affairs said. The satellite is expected to provide Bhutan with high resolution images for land-mapping and managing its natural resources, agriculture and forests.

In a written message delivered by Bhutan’s Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar said that the project marks “a new era in the relations between our two nations extending to the frontiers of space”. “It is an endeavour befitting out time, showcasing modern India’s technological and scientific capabilities and reflecting Bhutan’s aspirations,” he added. In a tweet responding to the message Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the satellite is a “testament” to India’s “special relationship with the people of Bhutan”.

Hues on canvas, winds of change in Valley

In her three-day ‘Autumn Art Exhibition’ in Srinagar, artist Deepa Soni has depicted a positive, peaceful and fearless Kashmir, one that has remained in the mist due to notions of outside world

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Depicting cheerful faces, syncretic values, traditional patterns and romantic colours of Kashmiri autumn, artist Deepa Soni’s three-day exhibition has cut through the autumn grimness with her colourful paintings and raised art forms in Srinagar, “in a bid to spread the message of a changed Kashmir”.

Ms. Soni, a painter from Udhampur district of Jammu, in collaboration with the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, has set up ‘Autumn Art Exhibition’ in Srinagar till Sunday.

It’s a tribute to the last generation of the Valley’s craftsmen and an attempt to spread the message of “a changed Kashmir”.

Oozing life: Deepa Soni exhibiting her work at the Arts Emporium in Srinagar on Friday. NISSAR AHMAD

‘Positive Kashmir’

“My works depict positive Kashmir. The Valley has changed. There are positive vibes around. There is a certain notion outside Kashmir. This exhibition is about fearless Kashmir,” Ms. Soni said.

Ms. Soni has used sparkling falling chinar leaves and bright faces of children to tell a fresh story about Kashmir. “It’s a conscious effort to show peaceful and blissful Kashmir, which is a dream place for every artist. Smiling children depict fearless future generations,” she said.

The three-day exhibition is also a workshop for art lovers from ages eight to 80. “We are encouraging people to paint the weather as part of the art workshop. We will talk about new techniques and raised art forms too,” she added.

An intricate painting depicting a cap-wearing child on a papier-mâché-pattern prayer mat and a rosary is Ms. Soni’s bid to pay tribute to the local craftsmen of Kashmir.

“The painting is about liberating souls from restrictions of religion. It’s a tribute to *karigars* (craftsmen) as many craftsmen battle as the last generation to keep the artform alive,” Ms. Soni said.

BEIRUT

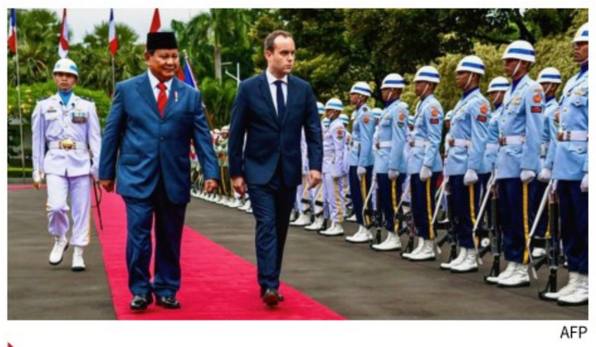
Turkish strikes force Syrian Kurds to stop operations against the IS

AP

The commander of the main U.S.-backed Kurdish-led force in Syria said on Saturday they have halted operations against the Islamic State group due to Turkish attacks on northern Syria over the past week. Mazloum Abdi said Turkish strikes over the past week have caused severe damage to the region's infrastructure. AP

JAKARTA

French Defence Minister praises 'strategic intimacy' with Indonesia



AFP

France's Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu met his Indonesian counterpart, Prabowo Subianto, in Jakarta, lauding the close ties between the two countries following an $8 billion fighter jet deal signed earlier this year. "There is a powerful strategic intimacy that is being born with Indonesia and France," Mr. Lecornu said. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan leader Tsai quits as ruling party chief after losing local polls

AP

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has stepped down as head of her ruling party after it suffered defeat in Saturday's local elections, while the Beijing-friendly main Opposition held its ground. "The election results were not as expected.... I should shoulder all the responsibility" Ms. Tsai, who will stay on as President, said. AFP

MILAN

Landslip leaves up to a dozen people missing on Italian island

AP

Heavy rainfall triggered landslips early on Saturday on the Italian island of Ischia that left as many as 12 missing as it cut a muddy swath through a port town, collapsing buildings and sweeping vehicles into the sea. Italy's Interior Minister said no deaths were confirmed, contrary to an earlier announcement from officials. AP

Protests in Chinese cities over COVID-19 measures

In a rare climbdown after more than three months, officials of Urumqi, where a fire in an apartment building killed at least 10 persons, said they would lift COVID-19 restrictions in phases

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Cities across China from the capital Beijing in the north to Urumqi in the west have seen rare protests against COVID-19 lockdowns imposed by the government, reflecting rising public anger over the stringent measures.

A day after widespread anger on Chinese social media after a fire in an apartment building in Urumqi killed at least 10 persons - the delay in extinguishing the fire was widely seen as a result of more than three-month-long lockdown measures in the western Xinjiang region - videos on social media showed Urumqi residents protesting on Friday night in front of a government office.

On Saturday, Urumqi authorities said they would lift COVID-19 restrictions in phases, a rare climbdown after more than three months of tight lockdowns in many parts of the city.

Tough times: A health worker passes a delivery good to a resident through a gate in Beijing on Saturday. REUTERS

The Urumqi fire was among the most discussed topics on Chinese social media on Friday and Saturday, triggering an outpouring of anger on tightening COVID-19 measures as the country faces a record number of cases.

The National Health Commission on Saturday reported 35,183 new cases, another pandemic record, up from 32,695 on Friday, which was also a record. More than 31,000 of those cases were asymptomatic.

That most cases have been mild or asymptomatic has further added to the ire of a weary public, as continuing lockdowns exact heavy economic and social costs. Schools in many cities, including Beijing, have been closed.

The Chinese capital has also seen rare protests, with videos on social media showing residents in several residential communities openly confronting hazmat suit-clad pandemic enforcers and even taking down barriers. Clashes have also been reported in recent days in other cities over the lockdown measures, including iPhone manufacturing hub Zhengzhou in central China and Guangzhou in the south.

Beijing won't budge

Beijing has maintained it would continue with its "zero-COVID" policy, even as China remains an exception from the rest of the world that has returned to some normalcy relying on vaccinations. The Chinese government fears mass deaths from opening as only 40% of the above-80 population has received the three doses of Chinese vaccines required to prevent hospitalisation and death, although it has not made any discernible attempt to revive a flagging vaccination campaign that has taken a backseat to the continued focus on locking down and mass testing.

India is the lone absentee at China's Indian Ocean forum of 19 countries

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China this week convened a first "China-Indian Ocean Region Forum" bringing together 19 countries from the region - and all of India's neighbours, except for India itself, the lone absentee from a new Beijing strategic initiative.

The forum, held in Kunming in southwestern Yunnan province on November 21, brought together representatives from 19 countries including Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, and Australia, according to a statement from the organisers, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

The forum is headed by Luo Zhaohui, who earlier served as envoy to India and Pakistan.

India was not invited. The CIDCA is China's new development aid agency, and is currently headed by former Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui, who also earlier served as envoy to India and Pakistan.

The forum underlined China's stepped up diplomacy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Earlier this year, during a visit to Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed creating another forum "on the development of Indian Ocean island countries" to "build consensus and synergy, and promote common development". He called on Sri Lanka to "play an important role" in the initiative.

At CIDCA's Kunming forum, China "proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region, and stood ready to provide necessary financial, material, and technical support to countries in need", a statement from CIDCA said.

China also "proposed the establishment of a blue economy think tank network for China and countries in the Indian Ocean region with the support of Yunnan."

The participating countries, the statement said, agreed to cooperate to "strengthen policy coordination, deepen development cooperation, increase resilience to shocks and disasters, and enhance relevant countries' capacity to obtain economic benefits through use of marine resources such as fisheries, renewable energy, tourism, and shipping in a sustainable way." China, which has set up a China-Africa Satellite Remote Sensing Application Centre, also called for countries "to jointly address non-traditional security challenges and participate in global development cooperation."

Pakistan warship built by Turkey inaugurated

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD/ISTANBUL

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have jointly inaugurated a corvette warship built by Turkey for the Pakistan Navy under a strategic cooperation project between the two nations.

Mr. Sharif, who is on a two-day visit to Turkey, said the launch of *PNS Khyber* represents the deepening of defence cooperation between the two nations, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported. "It was high time that Pakistan and Turkey transform their ties into a strategic partnership as the world was envious of the relationship between two brotherly countries," he said.

Imran says his party will resign from Assemblies to force snap elections

Press Trust of India
RAWALPINDI

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Saturday that his party had decided to resign from the Provincial Assemblies instead of marching on Islamabad to force the Shehbaz Sharif-led government to announce snap polls.

Addressing a massive rally of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party here in this garrison city, which houses the headquarters of the powerful Army, Mr. Khan also alleged that "three criminals", who were behind the failed assassination attempt on him early this month, are waiting to target him again.

The 70-year-old leader, who appeared with plaster on his right leg, has repeatedly alleged that Prime Minister Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and ISI Counter Intelligence Wing head Major General Faisal Naseer were behind the attack on him.

"We will not be part of this system. We have decided to quit all the Assemblies," Mr. Khan said in his first in-person address to the party workers after the assassination bid.

"I will consult all Chief Ministers and party leaders to leave the Assemblies," he said, adding that his party had decided not to go to Islamabad to avert any destruction or chaos. Mr. Khan's party has governments in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa as well as in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. It has representation in the Sindh and Balochistan Assemblies also.

U.S. bans equipment from China's Huawei, ZTE

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. authorities announced a ban on Friday on the import or sale of communications equipment deemed "an unacceptable risk to national security" – including gear from Chinese giants Huawei Technologies and ZTE.

Both firms have been on a roster of companies listed as a threat by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the new rules bar future authorisations of their equipment.

The move is the latest in a series of actions to limit the access of Chinese telecom firms to U.S. networks, and comes during a long-running standoff between the world's two biggest economies.

Deuba, Prachanda agree to form Nepal govt.

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda held a meeting here on Saturday and they agreed to continue their ruling five-party alliance as part of a new majority government in the country.

Elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on Sunday. The counting of votes started on Monday.

Nepal Congress's Deuba and CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Prachanda met at the Prime Minister's residence in Baluwatar, Kathmandu, according to party sources.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the current political developments and explored possibilities for the formation of the new government, said Ganesh Shah, Standing Committee member of the CPN-Maoist Centre.

Easy majority

"The two leaders have reached an understanding to continue the present ruling alliance," he said, exuding confidence that the five-party alliance will have enough strength in parliament to form a majority government.

"Janata Samajwadi Party led by Upendra Yadav will also join the ruling alliance led by the Nepali Congress and, with the support from both the Madhesi parties, we will have a comfortable majority to form the government," Mr. Shah said.

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Scientists discover new species of black corals near Australia

Press Trust of India

Using a remote-controlled submarine, researchers at Smithsonian Institution, Washington, discovered five new species of black corals living as deep as 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the surface in the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea off the coast of Australia.

Black corals can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres), and some individual corals can live for over 4,000 years.

Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip. Unlike their colourful, shallow-water cousins that rely on the sun and photosynthesis for energy, black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton that are abundant in deep waters.

In the past, corals from the deep parts of this region were collected using dredging and trawling methods that would often destroy the corals.

The researchers first sent a robot down to these particular deep-water ecosystems, allowing the team to actually see and safely collect deep sea corals in their natural habitats. Over the course of 31 dives, the researchers collected 60 black coral specimens.

They then removed the corals from the sandy floor or coral wall using the rover's robotic claws, placed the corals in a pressurised, temperature-controlled storage box and then brought them up to the surface.

The researchers then examined the physical features of the corals and sequenced their DNA.

Among the many interesting specimens were five new species – including one that was found growing on the shell of a nautilus more than 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the ocean's surface.

Similarly to shallow-water corals that build colourful reefs full of fish, black corals act as important habitats where fish and invertebrates feed and hide from predators in what is otherwise a mostly barren sea floor.

For example, a single black coral colony researchers collected in 2005 off the coast of California, United States, was home to 2,554 individual invertebrates.

Mumbai measles outbreak due to low vaccination coverage

Evidence from elsewhere suggests that unvaccinated children have nearly 70% higher mortality risk compared with vaccinated children

R. Prasad

One of the biggest fallouts of the pandemic globally has been the low routine immunisation coverage of children. As per WHO data of November 23, 2022, nearly 40 million children globally had missed a measles vaccine dose last year. As a result, there were an estimated nine million measles cases and 1,28,000 deaths in 2021.

The ongoing measles outbreak in Mumbai is a reflection of the lower immunisation coverage due to disruption in vaccination services and hesitancy by parents to get their children vaccinated. As of November 24, there have been 233 measles infections and 13 deaths in Mumbai. As per recent data, 538 confirmed measles cases have been reported in Maharashtra this year, as of October. There have also been increased number of measles cases in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Kerala.

"It is clear that in all such geographies, the effected children are unvaccinated and the average coverage of MRCV [Measles and Rubella containing vaccine] among the eligible beneficiaries is also significantly below the national average," Health Ministry said in a letter dated November 23. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that unvaccinated children have nearly 70% higher mortality risk compared with vaccinated children.

Ironically, even in 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic was at the peak in India, measles vaccination coverage in Mumbai was 78%, while in 2022 (till October) when the pandemic has largely been on low burn after the third wave, measles vaccination coverage in the city has been just 41.9%, as per Maharashtra health officials.

On why increased number of measles cases have been reported only from six States when measles vaccination coverage has been low across India, epidemiologist Dr. Giridhara Babu from the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru says in an email: "There is a detection and reporting bias. As per latest report, the measles incidence rate has increased from 3.37 per one million total population (October 2020-September 2021) to 8.86 per one million total population (October 2021-September 2022). The burden has increased in most States. We need to be careful that outbreaks are not missed in areas with poor reporting."

Measles risk high in children

Nearly 40 million children globally had missed a measles vaccine dose

- As of November 24, there have been 233 measles infections and 13 deaths in Mumbai
- As per recent data, 538 confirmed measles cases have been reported in Maharashtra this year, as of October
- There have been increased number of measles cases in certain districts of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Kerala
- Unvaccinated children have nearly 70% higher mortality risk compared with vaccinated children
- Increased measles cases from only six States might be due to considerable detection and reporting bias
- Measles incidence rate has increased from 3.37 per one million total population (Oct 2020-Sept 2021) to 8.86 per one million total population (Oct 2021-Sept 2022)

Disease burden: Globally, there were an estimated nine million measles cases and 1,28,000 deaths in 2021

- Even if 80 of 100 children are vaccinated with one dose, only 68 children are immunised (85% seroconversion), leaving out 22 of 100 children susceptible to infection
- The efficacy of measles vaccination is estimated around 85% when the first dose is administered at nine months. It rises to around 95% with the second dose

Explaining the large outbreak in Mumbai and increase in measles cases in some States, Dr. Babu says, "Two-dose vaccination coverage is most critical to interrupt measles transmission. Even if 80 of 100 children are vaccinated with one dose, only 68 children are immunised (85% seroconversion), leaving out 22 of 100 children susceptible to infection. If this continues for two years, the susceptible pool expands. Hence, it is very important to sustain a high level of coverage through a universal immunisation programme and follow up with supplementary immunisation activities to prevent outbreaks."

Mop-up campaign

Maharashtra is currently undertaking mop-up vaccination of all children with MRCV in parts of Mumbai that has reported the recent outbreak of measles. Though the first dose of measles vaccine is given at 9-12 months as part of routine immunisation programme, as part of the current strategy, one dose of MRCV will be administered to all children aged nine months to five years in areas that are showing a recent increase in the number of measles cases. This dose will be in addition to the primary vaccination schedule for the first and the second dose.

"In outbreak settings, children younger than nine months (the recommended age for measles vaccines) are at increased risk of measles. Therefore, infants of six months and older are also recommended for measles vaccination," Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, physician and infectious diseases specialist who was involved in India's biggest documented measles outbreak investigation at Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh in 2004, says in an email to *The Hindu*.

The level of protection offered by measles vaccination is dependent upon the age of administration. As per scientific evidence, in the case of measles, the persisting maternal antibodies affect the response to vaccination or immune conversion in infants.

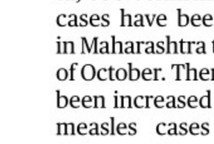
"Before nine months, especially before six months, maternal antibodies interfere with immune response to measles vaccine. Therefore, the avidity and affinity of antibodies generated by vaccination before nine months remain low. It is in this backdrop that nine months of age is considered optimal for measles vaccination in infants," Dr. Lahariya says about the rationale for administering the vaccine at nine months as part of the routine immunisation programme.

The efficacy of measles vaccination is estimated around 85% when the first dose is administered at nine months. It rises to around 95% when the second dose is administered, Dr. Lahariya says.

Vulnerable to infection

While even one dose provides sufficient protection and two doses provides full protection, a couple of vaccinated children in Mumbai and Mallapuram district in Kerala have still been infected. This could possibly be due to the failure to sero-convert following vaccination. "Levels of antibodies induced by measles vaccination decrease over time. Two doses of the vaccine are thus recommended to ensure immunity and prevent outbreaks, as about 15% of vaccinated children fail to develop immunity from the first dose," says Dr. Babu.

Why is sleep important?



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

While super-seniors such as myself were young, we had to hit the bed by 8 p.m. and wake up by 4 a.m., brush teeth, take a bath and start the day with the remaining school homework, eat some breakfast, take tiffin boxes with lunch, and go to school.

We would come back home by 6 p.m. after school and play, do our homework, listen to radio/television, glance through the newspapers, have dinner and hit the bed by 8 p.m. and go to sleep. But alas, things have changed nowadays.

There are coaching classes for professional schools (e.g., IITs or ISBs) run by former professors, which are held early in the morning (usually around 4 or 5 a.m.) for aspiring students, thus cutting the amount of sleep that they need to have.

Required sleep

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has recommended that children aged 6-12 years should regularly sleep for 9-12 hours per 24 hours and teenagers aged 13-18 years should sleep for 8-10 hours per 24 hours.

As it turns out, this is not happening in today's children, particularly since they attend classes (and a bit of relaxation) all day. And neither do their 'coaches' who are usually in the age range 40-70, who themselves need seven hours of sleep for a healthy life.

In a recent commentary in the journal *Nature*, Dr. J. Allan Hobson writes with the catchy Lincolnian title: "Sleep is of the brain, by the brain and for the brain", and points out that our sleep has two stages, called one with a rapid eye movement (REM) and the other a non-REM stage. REM sleep accounts for about 20% and has dreams, while non-REM sleep is for about 80% of the time and is known to improve consolidation and to bring about improvement in strengthening memories and learning new things.

Significant: Diet and nutrition can influence the quality of sleep. GETTY IMAGES

Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep accounts for about 20% and has dreams, while non-REM sleep is for about 80% of the time

Nutrition and sleep

The site, Medicine Plus from the U.S. National Library of Medicine, states that nutrition is about eating a healthy and balanced diet. Food and drink provide the energy and nutrients you need to be healthy. Understanding these nutrition terms may make it easier for you to make better food choices.

Sleep Foundation in the U.S. suggests that diet and nutrition can influence the quality of your sleep, and certain fruits and drinks can make it harder to get the sleep that you need. Lack of key nutrients such as calcium, vitamins A, C, D, E and K would cause sleep problems.

High carbohydrate meals with high glycemic index during night meals (e.g., rice or wheat), alcohol as well as tobacco at night will make a person drowsy, increase awakening and reduce the amount of the required sleep.

Sleep Foundation further suggests that we adopt the mediterranean diet, which is plant-based, lean meats (no pork, beef or chicken), eggs and high fibre foods. Such a diet not only improves the health of a person's heart but also improves the sleep quality.

Happily, enough, most Indian meals are variants of the mediterranean diet. And we are also advised to eat sparingly sufficient dinners, in order to sleep well. So, let us wish each other a healthy and 'sound' sleep.

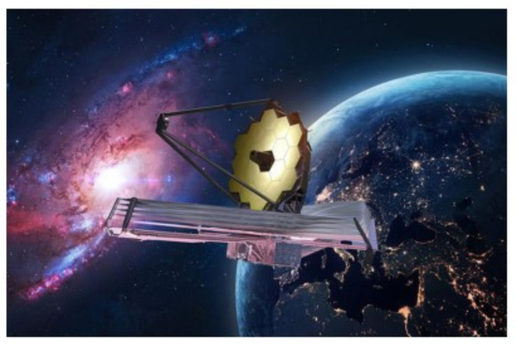
SNAPSHOTS

mRNA lipid vaccine candidate as universal flu vaccine

Researchers have developed a mRNA lipid nanoparticle vaccine that contains antigens from all 20 known subtypes of influenza A and B viruses. The vaccine produced high levels of cross-reactive and subtype-specific antibodies in mice and ferrets and could protect animals against disease symptoms and death after infection with both antigenically matched and mismatched strains of influenza. Universal vaccine is important as it is difficult to predict which flu strain will cause the next flu pandemic.

Leap seconds to be removed from official clocks from 2035

Metrologists have agreed to stop adding 'leap seconds' to official clocks to keep them in sync with variations in Earth's rotation. Leap seconds can disrupt systems based on precise time keeping because there is no set way to integrate them. Earth's rotation has sped up since 2020 – normally over the long term, Earth's rotation slows because of Moon's pull. So, for the first time, a leap second might need to be removed rather than added. The practice of adding leap seconds will be put on hold from 2035.



James Webb Telescope offers glimpse of the early Universe

The James Webb Space Telescope has spotted two leading contenders for what could be the most distant galaxy ever seen. If initial estimates are correct, light from these objects has travelled such great distances that they appear as they did just 350-450 million years after the Big Bang. Along with more of the telescope's findings, these observations indicate that galaxies formed and evolved earlier in the Universe's history than astronomers had been able to probe until now.

Question Corner

Human liver

Is there a way of growing and regenerating a human liver?

Leprosy is one of the world's oldest and most persistent diseases but the bacteria that causes it may also have the surprising ability to grow and regenerate a vital organ. Scientists have discovered that parasites associated with leprosy can reprogramme cells to increase the size of a liver in adult animals without causing damage, scarring or tumours, as per a release.

The findings (*Cell Reports Medicine*) suggest the possibility of adapting this natural process to renew ageing livers and increase health span – the length of time living disease-free – in humans.

The scientists found that the infected animals developed enlarged – yet healthy and unharmed – livers with the same vital components, such as blood vessels, and functional units known as lobules, as the uninfected and resistant armadillos. The team believes the bacteria 'hijacked' the inherent regenerative ability of the liver to increase the organ's size and, therefore, to provide it with more cells within which to increase.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What does draft on online reviews entail?

Why has the Government cracked down against product and service reviews on e-commerce websites?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On Monday, the Department of Consumer Affairs issued guidelines to curtail fake and deceptive product and service reviews on e-commerce websites. Work on the framework titled, 'Online Consumer Reviews - Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication', began in June, when a committee was set up comprising industry stakeholders and consumer organisations. The standards were enforced on November 25 and apply to any platform which publishes consumer reviews online.

Why are guidelines necessary?

LocalCircles, a community research platform and part of the committee that drafted the guidelines, had 64% respondents in its survey acknowledging they consult reviews at all times, 26% occasionally, 7% only for expensive products with the remainder refraining.

Of late however, there have concerns about the integrity of these reviews. There are complaints ranging from manufactured positive reviews by sellers or negative reviews by a competitor, engagement of "online reputation management" companies for improving reviews to a trust deficit in websites allegedly exercising bias for certain products by filtering out either negative or positive reviews.

In the new guidelines, websites have to make sure that all systems have anti-fraud mechanisms in place to protect personal data from internal and external fraud

Moreover, companies have both penalised and incentivised consumers for writing negative and positive reviews respectively. The trust deficit was also affirmed in the same survey that had 80% respondents stating they purchased a product seeing higher reviews only to be left disappointed - at least once.

How do the guidelines deal with 'fake' reviewers?

The crackdown on 'fake' reviews will have to begin by establishing the credentials of the author and their experience. This is also in the context of how consumers with their newfound status as 'public critic' advance positive reviews for certain returns.

The guidelines state that user authentication is to be done either through email, telephone call, SMS, single sign-on and/or captcha system among other methods.

Without acknowledging the terms and conditions of the website, and providing an email or telephone number, users will not be able to write reviews. The website has to make certain that all systems have anti-fraud mechanisms in place to protect personal data from internal and external fraud.

How will reviews be moderated?

The central idea is to ensure that the experiences are genuine. This would be ascertained through authors' activities such as frequency of writing reviews, history of contributions, location and use of language. The text must not contain profanity, illicit content, unintelligible content and reveal the author's identity, especially because the review could also be done anonymously. Reviews must also mention the date of publishing so that readers are able to identify the more recent reviews irrespective of the website's default filter.

All reviews whether positive or negative are to be dealt with similar standards and operandi. This would particularly tackle negative reviews from being filtered out. The filtering particularly bothers consumers who do not have any space to share grievances because their complaints with the product arose after the return window had closed. Thus, the 'experience' criterion would have to consider this aspect too for soliciting reviews.

Overall, violations would not only result in the particular review being removed. Other reviews on the site will be marked for scrutiny and they may be disallowed from carrying reviews on the platform again.

Will it make reviews and ratings reliable?

The reliability and consistency of the moderation process can be assessed using random sampling and survey methods (through interviews or written surveys), other than planting 'pretend reviews' for testing purposes on their platform.

Founder and CEO of LocalCircles, Sachin Taparia told *The Hindu*, "I am bullish about it and I think it is good and will evolve with time. The Government will have to play an active role in ensuring compliance for the next 3-5 years, and then make this mandatory or take a middle path to certify compliant companies."

According to him, the guidelines would ensure that negative reviews on e-commerce platforms are not removed without reason.

Finally, for platforms such as Google and Meta, the validation guidelines would, over time, erase accounts created solely for fake reviews.

Preventing suicides: what is the new strategy?

How will the plan work on the ground? Why is it important to have such a framework for India? What are the reasons for the growing suicide rate in the country?

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

Taking it up as a public health priority, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare last week released the nation's first-ever National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. It posted a copy of the strategy online on its website. Structured closely on the lines of the World Health Organization's guidelines for Suicide Prevention in the South East Asian region, the National Strategy promises to adhere to the cultural and social requirements of India, with specific recognition of its current field-level infrastructure.

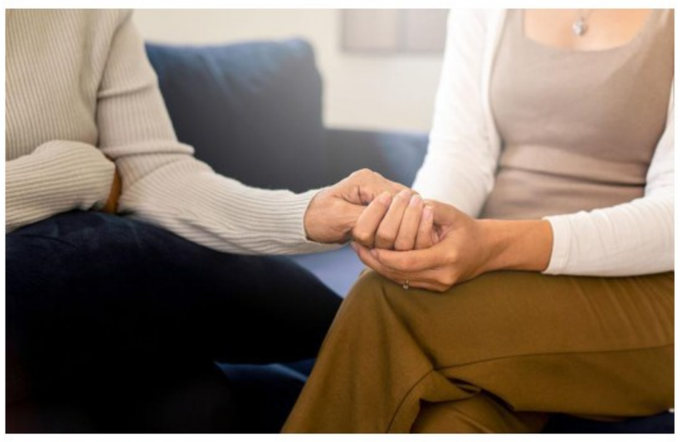
What does it hope to achieve?

The overall vision of the document is to "create a society, where people value their lives and are supported when they are in need". It aims at reducing suicide mortality by 10% in the country by 2030.

It provides a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in the country. In his introductory note, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "Further efforts are now required to prevent suicides as a public health priority. Suicides impact all sections of the society and thus require concerted and collaborative efforts from individuals and the community at large. The aim is to synthesise stakeholder efforts with the motto of 'energise to synergise'. It is with this mindset that the country's first National Suicide Prevention Strategy has been developed."

The national strategy includes an action framework for key stakeholders, providing a path forward for preventing suicides. This will provide guidance to every stakeholder for setting targets, implementing, monitoring and taking corrective actions, to attain the aim of the strategy.

The most important thing is that India now has a strategy to prevent suicides and encourage people to seek help, say experts



Worrying trend: According to WHO data from 2018 close to 8,00,000 people die by suicide every year around the world. GETTY IMAGES

Why does India need a suicide prevention plan?

According to the WHO data from 2018, globally, close to 8,00,000 people die by suicide every year. Of these, nearly one third of all suicides occur among young people. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds and the second leading cause of death for females aged 15-19 years.

In India, suicide has become the number one cause of death among those aged 15-29 years, exceeding deaths due to road traffic accidents and maternal mortality. India's contribution to global suicides increased from 25.3% in 1990 to 36.6% in 2016 among women, and from 18.7% to 24.3% among men. More than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide in India. In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population.

This strategy also incorporates a special focus on preventing suicides during disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, it argues, has brought unprecedented times with various disruptions. These disruptions and uncertainties have an impact on people's mental health, requiring specific interventions.

"Suicide must be considered as a public health emergency, given the number of people dying from suicides every year. The most important thing is that the government has acknowledged that suicide is a problem. Finally, we have a plan, a well-laid out one at that, to handle the situation and take action, not only to prevent further suicides, but also encourage people to seek help," says Lakshmi Vijayakumar, founder, Sneha, a suicide prevention helpline. The document also acknowledges her inputs in providing the first draft of the strategy which was then discussed and enriched with inputs from multiple agencies and experts.

The document, which was in the works for a long time, also records that the most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths in India respectively. Other common reasons include marital conflicts, love affairs, bankruptcy or indebtedness, substance use and dependence. It is also to be noted that in approximately 10% of the suicides, the cause is not documented.

What are the key elements of the strategy?

The strategy has constructed a framework for multiple stakeholders to implement activities for prevention of suicides in the country. It is very significant, Dr. Lakshmi explains, that the government did not merely include a suicide prevention component in the pre-existing Mental Health Act, but has outlined a specific set of strategies involving multiple sectors. In addition to the Centre, the State and regional governance institutions and the voluntary sector too have a role to play. "This sort of cascading effect will be key in ensuring that the rollout of the strategy is effective," she added.

Among the Ministries that are to be involved in implementing the strategy are Agriculture, Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Social Justice and Empowerment, Education, Labour, Women and Child Development, Information Technology, Youth Affairs and Sports. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) will also play an anchoring role, offering support to the implementation.

A time-bound action plan has also been laid out by the government. It has offered commitments to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide prevention in the next three years, establish psychiatric OPD that provide suicide prevention services, through the district mental health plan in all the districts within the next five years, and to integrate mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutes within the next eight years. There is also a huge component for stigma reduction, as stigma is seen as a hurdle in the process of seeking counselling and treatment options.

Dr. Lakshmi says, in addition to the question of stigma, the strategy is sensitive to India-specific issues, including reducing easy access to means of suicide, for instance, pesticides. It also vows to leverage the media in order to spread awareness and de-stigmatise mental health, and promote responsible media reporting of suicide. Strengthening data collection on suicide and attempts to suicide will also be a key part of the strategy. Neither the last nor the least of these initiatives is the effort to develop community resilience and societal support for suicide prevention and reduce suicide behaviour.

What next?

Experts point out that the priority areas would be to reinforce leadership, establish partnerships and institutional capacity, enhance health services to provide suicide prevention, strengthen surveillance and ensure that provisions are made for evidence generation.

Strong political will to put out a strategy to prevent suicides must be matched with actual, determined ground-level implementation. Co-opting the various State governments in this massive venture will be essential to ensure success in lowering the suicide rate in the country.

(Those in distress could seek help by reaching out to Tamil Nadu State's health helpline at 104; DISHA - 1056, 0471-2552056; Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Delhi, at 011-4076 9002)

Why is the Darjeeling Tea industry in crisis?

What intervention has the Tea Board of India sought? Will financial help alone be enough to save the gardens in the hills? What more needs to be done to rescue the ailing brew?

Shiv Sahay Singh

The story so far:

Early this month, during the annual general meeting of the Indian Tea Association (ITA) in Kolkata, the Tea Board of India said it had sought a special financial package of ₹1,000 crore from the Centre for the tea Industry over five years. Tea Board officials admitted that Indian tea had not been able to establish itself globally, and that one of its key brands, Darjeeling Tea, was under acute stress.

Why is it important to save Darjeeling Tea?

Darjeeling Tea, called the 'Champagne of Teas', was the first Indian product to get the GI (Geographical Identification) tag in 2004 for its distinctive aroma and flavour. About 87 gardens in Darjeeling which employ about 55,000 workers produce approximately 7 million kg of tea, most of which is exported. According to insiders, over the past few months a lot of gardens in the hills have changed hands because the owners were reeling under higher costs of production and other issues. ITA chairperson Nayantara Palchoudhuri said the financial problems of the Darjeeling Tea industry were acute, and the Government's help was needed.

What is the threat from Nepal's gardens?

A report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Commerce, tabled in Parliament in June, said "unhampered and easy influx of substandard tea from neighbouring countries, especially Nepal" is jeopardising the tea industry of India. The document pointed out that inferior quality tea from Nepal was being imported, and then sold and re-exported as premium Darjeeling Tea. Under the Revised Treaty of Trade between the Governments of India and Nepal in October 2009, both parties had agreed to exempt from basic customs duty, as well as from quantitative restrictions, the import of mutually agreed primary products. Data from the Tea Association of India show that the total tea imported from Nepal in 2020-21 was 10.74 million kg; during the same period, the total tea import of India was pegged at 27.75 million kg. Industry experts said Nepal, which shares similar climatic conditions and terrain, produces tea at a lower price because of less input costs, particularly labour, and fewer quality checks. Even though the quality is no match, yet the tea from Nepal posed a serious challenge to Darjeeling Tea, officials said.

Indian Tea Association chairperson Nayantara Palchoudhuri says the Darjeeling Tea industry is facing acute stress, and that a financial intervention by the Government is necessary

Flagship beverage: Darjeeling Tea, called the 'Champagne of Teas', was the first Indian product to get the GI tag in 2004 for its aroma and flavour. AFP

What are the other points of stress?

The influx of tea from Nepal picked up pace in 2017, when the 107- day agitation and shutdown in the Darjeeling hills brought tea production to a halt. From June to September 2017, tea bushes in Darjeeling lay unattended during the agitation called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha over demand of a separate State of Gorkhaland. In 2017, the production of Darjeeling Tea hit a low of 3.21 million kg. Since a substantial market of Darjeeling Tea is exported, exporters switched to cheaper varieties of tea, including the imported variety from Nepal. Tea planters and industry experts admit that the tea industry in Darjeeling has not recovered from the damage it incurred in 2017.

Is climate change impacting production?

The reduction in production and rise of input costs is another worry. Tea production in Darjeeling which used to be around 10-12 million kg a decade back now stands at 6.87 mkg (2021). Industry experts say the decline in production is due to multiple factors, which include climate change, declining yields and high absenteeism among workers. Because of the hilly terrain of Darjeeling there is no land left for expansion of tea gardens. The tea bushes are older than other parts of the country. Uprooting and planting them is both time and cost intensive.

Industry experts point out that an average tea garden in Darjeeling is about 150 hectares whereas those in the foothills vary from 400 to 500 hectares. The average yield per hectare of Darjeeling Tea, according to ITA, is about 350 kg at present which was about 542 kg in 2000. The yield per hectare in the foothills, particularly the Dooars region, is about four times higher than the Darjeeling tea gardens.

Planters have also been complaining about the stagnant prices of auction of Darjeeling Tea, which in 2021 was on average pegged at ₹365.45 per kg. According to the ITA, prices of Darjeeling Tea in the last six years have grown at a CAGR (cumulative annual growth rate) of only 1.7% against an increasing cost of input between 10% and 12% CAGR.

In November 2021, the Tea Board of India issued a notification to restrict the import and distribution of cheap quality tea. It asked those who were packaging Darjeeling Tea to indicate on the package if the tea was blended with imported tea, and also give the source of origin of the tea. Packeteers have brought down their purchase of Darjeeling Tea after the notification impacted prices. Some global factors like the decline in demand from European markets in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war have compounded the problem.

What is the way forward?

Planters in Darjeeling say unless the Government restricts the influx of tea from Nepal, Darjeeling Tea cannot be saved. The Standing Committee of Parliament has recommended that the Government "review and revisit the Indo-Nepal Treaty for incorporating stringent requirements for certificate of origin on tea imports from Nepal." The committee suggested that Small Tea Growers (STGs) should also be recognised as GI-registered producers on a par with the 87 tea estates which produce Darjeeling Tea to ensure better price premium. According to available data, about 52% of tea in the country is produced by STGs. Industry experts called for raising the domestic consumption of tea in India, particularly when exports are not picking up. The per capita tea consumption in the country remains at 850 grams and is less than neighbouring countries.

PROFILES

The spymaster-turned-Army chief

Syed Asim Munir

The Lieutenant-General, who, as ISI chief, fell out with then Prime Minister Imran Khan, has been picked by the Shehbaz Sharif government to be the next Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan

Stanly Johny

Lieutenant-General Syed Asim Munir was the shortest serving head of the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's infamous spy agency. He was appointed the ISI head in October 2018 by the Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. But eight months later, he was replaced with Lt.Gen. Faiz Hamid on the insistence of then Prime Minister Imran Khan. The cricketer-turned-politician, who came to power a few months earlier, was still enjoying warm ties with the military establishment, which could not overlook his wishes. While there was no official word on why the ISI chief was fired, an alleged audio clip of Aleem Khan, a former leader of Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), surfaced earlier this year in which he accused the former Prime Minister of sacking Lt.Gen. Munir for exposing corruption of his wife, Bushra Bibi.

In three years, the tables have turned. Mr. Khan, who fell out with the military, was ousted from power in April through a no-confidence vote. As he is trying to make a comeback through political mobilisation across the country, Lt.Gen. Munir has been appointed the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), arguably the most powerful position in Pakistan.

It was hardly a secret that Mr. Khan's PTI was steadfastly opposed to Lt.Gen. Munir's appointment. But Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother and former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif (who is in exile in London), had their way in picking the successor of Gen. Bajwa, who would retire on November 29 after six years at the top. "We hope that the new leadership of the armed forces of Pakistan will play its constitutional role... and stay out of the politics of domestic affairs...," Mr. Khan's party said in a statement about Lt.Gen. Munir's appointment, without congratulating the next COAS.

Little is known about what Lt.Gen. Munir thinks of the critical challenges Pakistan is facing – from civil military relations to tackling ties with India, managing Afghanistan and balancing between the U.S. and China. All these years, he has kept a low profile, avoiding public comments and controversies. But he has held several key posts in the military, an indication that the top brass has been grooming him for leadership roles. He entered the service through the Officers Training School programme in Mangla, where he won the prestigious Sword of Honour, an honorary sword given to best performing cadets. He started his military career as a Second Lieutenant in 1986 when the military dictator Gen. Zia-ul-Haq was ruling Pakistan.

Military Intelligence

As a Brigadier, he commanded the Pakistani troops in the Northern Areas, which includes Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, under Gen. Bajwa. After Gen. Bajwa became the Army chief in November 2016, Lt.Gen. Munir rose through the ranks quickly. He was appointed the Military Intelligence Director-General in 2017 and became a (three-star) Lieutenant-General in September 2018. In the same year, Gen. Bajwa promoted him as the ISI Director-General, but his fallout with Mr. Khan cost him the job. However, Lt.Gen. Munir survived Mr. Khan's ire. He was posted as Gujranwala Corps Commander for two years and then moved to the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi as a Quartermaster General, in charge of supplies.

Among the names that did the rounds for the COAS, which also included Lt.Gen. Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Lt.Gen. Azhar Abbas, Lt.Gen. Nauman Mehmood and Lt.Gen. Faiz Hamid (who was said to be Mr. Khan's favourite), Lt.Gen. Munir was the senior most. His four-year term as a Lt.Gen. was to end on November 27 (Sunday). But two days later, he would become a four-star General, beginning a three-year term as the COAS.

Pakistani media term him a "devout", "clear-headed" soldier committed to protecting the interests of the military and the state. There were instances of Lt.Gen. Munir acting swiftly to protect the military and the ISI from public criticism. In July 2018, Islamabad High Court judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui criticised the ISI, saying the agency was manipulating judicial proceedings to get favourable

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

decisions. Justice Siddiqui was sacked in October that year by President Arif Alvi on a recommendation from the Supreme Judicial Council for misconduct, a few days after Lt.Gen. Munir became the ISI chief. Political analyst and author Shuja Nawaz writes in his book, *The Battle for Pakistan*, that the Supreme Court's decision was an example of Lt.Gen. Munir's "overreach". Mr. Nawaz writes that Lt.Gen. Munir has the "reputation of a hardliner" and "a tough officer rooted in Islamic tradition". Lt.Gen. Munir is also called a Hafiz-e-Quran, who memorised the holy book during his posting in Saudi Arabia as a Lieutenant-Colonel.

Lt.Gen. Munir takes over the 6,00,000-strong military with nuclear weapons at a critical time for Pakistan. Gen. Bajwa's six-year term has seen mixed results for the country. With regard to India, relations took a massive hit after the post-Pulwama clashes (Lt.Gen. Munir was the ISI chief when the Pulwama attack took place in February 2019 in which 40 Indian personnel were killed). But two years later, India and Pakistan agreed to renew a ceasefire that was in tatters. Under Gen. Bajwa, Pakistan oversaw the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, which seemed to have given a strategic victory to the establishment. But the Taliban's return also posed new security and strategic challenges for Pakistan, with the Pakistani Taliban (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) gaining momentum from their Afghan brothers' triumph and ramping up attacks. At home, the military, which has always remained the power behind the throne, faced a credibility crisis after Mr. Khan, who was earlier backed by the Generals, accused them of plotting his ouster from power. With Mr. Khan travelling across the country mobilising thousands of people and publicly attacking the military and his political rivals, the establishment has got a popular rival in the political class.

'Cornered tiger'

Amid a host of challenges, Lt.Gen. Munir will have to get his priorities right. "I expect continuity between Bajwa and Munir on India policy. Bajwa sought to limit tensions, as evidenced by the new border truce last year and his focus on more regional trade and connectivity, as well as Pakistan's muted response to the errant Indian missile that landed in Pakistan," said Michael Kugelman, South Asia Institute Director at The Wilson Center, Washington DC. "With Munir and the Army on the whole wanting the main policy focus to be on stabilising Pakistan politically and economically, the last thing they'll want is a fresh crisis with India. So I expect Munir, at least initially, to endorse Bajwa's efforts to keep tensions down in the relationship with India, and focus on getting things in better order at home."

Finding ways to stabilise domestic politics, where Mr. Khan remains what Pakistani journalist Abbas Nasir calls a "cornered tiger", would not be an easy task. "If Munir concludes that political stability is more likely with early polls, and he presses the government to agree to them, that could inject tensions into what have been smooth civil-relations in recent months, post-Khan ouster. That said, given the reports of past differences between Khan and Munir, Munir likely isn't about to do Khan any favours, at least not initially. And we can't rule out him endorsing efforts by the state to try to undermine Khan's electoral prospects," Mr. Kugelman told *The Hindu*. Challenging days are ahead for both the military and Mr. Khan.

THE GIST

- Asim Munir entered the military service through the Officers Training School (OTS) programme in Mangla, where he won the prestigious Sword of Honour
- As a Brigadier, he commanded the Pakistani troops in the Northern Areas, which includes Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, under Gen. Bajwa
- After Gen. Bajwa became the Army chief in November 2016, Lt.Gen. Munir rose through the ranks quickly — he became the Military Intelligence chief in 2017 and the ISI head a year after

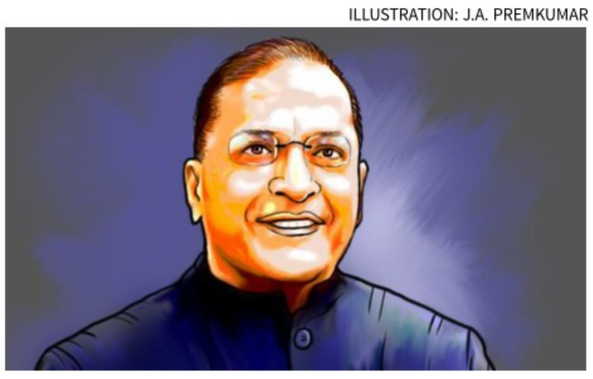
Controversial Commissioner

Arun Goel

The 1985-batch IAS officer, who took voluntary retirement as Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, was appointed an Election Commissioner a day later

Mahesh Langa

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR



Arun Goel, a former Punjab-cadre IAS officer of the 1985 batch, was scheduled to retire as Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, on December 31. However, barely six weeks ahead of his superannuation, Mr. Goel sought voluntary retirement from service (VRS) and it was approved on November 18. The next day, he was appointed an Election Commissioner, filling the vacancy that was created by the retirement of Sushil Chandra.

"The President is pleased to appoint Arun Goel, IAS (Retd.) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office," announced Kiren Rijiju, the Union Law and Justice Minister, on Twitter.

In line to be CEC

In the Election Commission of India, which conducts the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Goel will be in line to be the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) when the incumbent, Rajiv Kumar, retires in February 2025. Mr. Goel will be in office till December 2027.

Before he was moved from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Mr. Goel served as Secretary, Culture from May 2018 to December 2019. In over a decade at the Centre in various posts, Mr. Goel served as Joint Secretary in the Department of Revenue, a coveted post for any IAS officer, and then as Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule.

However, he was shunted out from the DDA over alleged differences with the Ministry of Urban Affairs, which exercises the administrative control over the authority. According to several officials who worked with him, Mr. Goel is a "nice, soft-spoken and polite" officer who does not let anyone gauge what is going on in his mind. After the BJP government came to power in 2014, he served the Ministry of Labour as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser and was empanelled as Secretary in the second review.

"By the time he was empanelled as Secretary, many of his batch-mates were already posted as Secretaries in various departments or Ministries because they were empanelled much earlier in the first round," a retired secretary told *The Hindu*.

Talent spotted

Following his empanelment, he was posted as the Secretary of Culture. It's during this assignment that he apparently showcased his talent and work in conceptualising *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, a Government of India campaign that was planned to celebrate the 75 years of India's independence.

In fact, as Secretary of Culture, Mr. Goel had extensive meetings and conversations with members of various committees of the Ministry and members closely connected with the RSS and its affiliates. He also pushed the idea of bringing up the contribution of unsung heroes of the Freedom Movement – which found favour with the top minds in the government – in the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. He also worked with the revamping of various museums and other institutions that are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture.

From January 1, 2020, Mr. Goel took over as Secretary, Heavy Industries. Here, according to his home page on the Election Commission site, "he catalysed the e-vehicle movement in India to a tipping point. He implemented the PLI [production-linked incentives] scheme for the auto industry in record time, getting investments worth ₹67,690 crore against a target of ₹42,500 crore."

His appointment to the EC has triggered a bunch of petitions at the Supreme Court's five-judge Constitution Bench. The judges have questioned the centre about its "tearing hurry" to process Mr. Goel's file in less than 24 hours and called for the entire file and records regarding the appointment.

However, Justice K.M. Joseph also added: "We are only on the process of selection, not on any individual... In fact we notice that this person who is selected is a gold medallist in mathematics and brilliant academic record he has."

Rise of the reformer

Anwar Ibrahim

Malaysia's perennial opposition leader has traversed a tumultuous political journey to finally assume the post of Prime Minister

Diksha Munjal

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

On being released from prison after six years in 2004 for what was seen as trumped-up charges of corruption and sodomy, Malaysia's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim spoke in interviews of having read all volumes of Shakespeare four times over during his incarceration. He spoke of how the English playwright enabled him to fly away from the small constraint of those four walls. Mr. Anwar's journey from being sacked and imprisoned by his own mentor and Malaysia's former Premier Mahathir Mohammad to leading a mass reform movement from his jail cell is nothing short of a Shakespearean tale itself, having all the essential elements of betrayal, tragedy, and irony.

After days of political gridlock following divisive national elections that produced a hung Parliament this month, Mr. Anwar, long-time opposition leader and Malaysia's face of democratic resistance, was named by the country's king as its 10th Prime Minister on Thursday, November 24.

He was born in 1947 to a family of politically active parents in the small town of Cherok Tok Kun in Malaysia's Penang, and thus his path to student politics was only natural. While his father, Ibrahim Abdul Rahman, was a hospital porter-turned-MP, his mother Che Yan Hussein was a grassroots organiser against the then-British rule in Penang. Mr. Anwar's career began as a firebrand, charismatic student activist in the 1970s, who built on the Muslim empowerment movement and protested against the then long-ruling party United Malays National Organisation (UMNO).

He co-founded the Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia, the country's Islamic youth movement in 1971. He was arrested and jailed for 20 months for participating in a student protest for rural farmers. In what came as a twist in the early 1980s, he was co-opted by Mr. Mahathir into the UMNO, the very party he first opposed.

Rapidly rising up the political ranks from successively becoming the Culture, Agriculture, and Education Minister in the 1980s to assuming the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister post in the 1990s, Mr. Anwar began to be seen in the country's political circles as the protégé and heir-apparent of Mr. Mahathir. It was in this period that economic policy differences began to surface between him and Mr. Mahathir.

Split with Mahathir

Tensions in what Mr. Anwar often described as the 'father-son' relationship came to a head when he began advocating political reform within the UMNO and challenged the leadership of his boss, accusing him of nepotism and cronyism. In retaliation, Mr. Mahathir sacked him from the deputy's post in 1998, which marked the start of his protests for reforms, inviting his arrest. In the next two years, he was sentenced to a total of 15 years in prison for separate charges of corruption and homosexual acts, both of which he denied and described as politically motivated.

Despite the strong caution and disapproval of his children, the politician, in what came as the biggest twist in the roller-coaster relationship between him and Mr. Mahathir, decided to collaborate with his foe for the 2018 general election as Najib Razak faced the damning 1MDB corruption scandal. After a prison visit from his former boss, Mr. Anwar said he was "forgiving", even though an apology never came from Mr. Mahathir, for the sake of propelling the Opposition's reform agenda. The new coalition, Pakatan Harapan, won the election while Mr. Anwar led from inside prison. Mr. Mahathir secured him a royal pardon and settled on a deal that he would be handing over the premiership to Mr. Anwar in 2020. The nonagenarian leader and longest-serving Malaysian Prime Minister, however, did not stand by his promise and refused to pass the baton, leading to political instability.

As the pillar of the Malaysian reform movement finally takes charge, it remains to be seen how he tackles the problems of corruption, inequality and inflation with his road map for a better Malaysia.

INBRIEF

Softbank-backed Oyo Hotels' loss narrows to ₹333 cr. in Q2

Softbank-backed Indian hotel aggregator Oyo Hotels and Homes Pvt. Ltd. reported a smaller loss for the July-September period compared with the previous quarter, in an update to its initial public offering prospectus released on Saturday. The company reported a net loss of ₹333 crore ($40.77 million) in the second quarter of the financial year compared with a loss of ₹414 crore in the first quarter. The monthly revenue per hotel rose 69% y-o-y to ₹3.48 lakh. REUTERS

Adani eyes ₹5,700-cr. Mumbai power network expansion

Betting big on the emerging opportunity amid growing power consumption in the periphery of Mumbai, the Adani Group aims to invest ₹5,700 crore over five years for expanding its electricity distribution in the metro region. It will build the entire power network ground-up to compete with state-owned Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company in the newer areas it seeks to operate in. As per a petition made public by the group, it will take five years to build universal service capabilities in the targeted areas. PTI

Square Yards to facilitate fractional ownership of realty

Proptech firm Square Yards has entered into the business of facilitating investors in having fractional ownership of rent-yielding real estate assets and earn 14-18% annual return on their capital. PropsAMC, the asset management services and data intelligence arm of Square Yards, has introduced fractional ownership real estate investment platform, the company said in a statement. The minimum ticket size to participate will be ₹25 lakh. PTI

Industry urges govt. to establish 'India Rare Earths Mission' to reduce reliance on China

Policy must back private sector mining in critical sector in which India produces only 1% of global output despite having 6% of world's reserves; CII suggests splitting state-run Indian Rare Earths Ltd. and tasking new entity with overseeing the mining, production of non-Thorium minerals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To counter India's reliance on China for imports of critical rare earth minerals, industry has urged the government to encourage private sector mining in the sector and diversify sources of supply for these strategic raw materials.

"Set up an 'India Rare Earths Mission', manned by professionals, like the India Semiconductor Mission and make their exploration a critical component of the Deep Ocean Mission plan of the government," the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted, suggesting steps to encourage private players to mine such minerals.

Though India has 6% of the world's rare earth reserves, it only produces 1% of global output, and meets most of its requirements of such minerals from China, the industry grouping pointed out in a memorandum of suggestions for the Union Budget recently submitted to the Finance Ministry.

Mission mode
CII asks government to set up group led by professionals to oversee output of the strategic materials

- Moots making exploration of rare earths a critical component of India's Deep Ocean Mission plan
- In 2018-19, 92% of rare earth imports by value and 97% by quantity were from China
- Suggests placing sector under 'Make in India' initiative and adopting an approach similar to India Semiconductor Mission

'Broad-base supply'
In 2018-19, for instance, 92% of rare earth metal imports by value and 97% by quantity were sourced from China. "Clearly there is a need to build domestic capability and broad-base supply sources for such an important and strategic raw material," the CII said, making a pitch for harnessing the potential of the country's own rare earth reserves.

Suggesting that such minerals should not be held captive to India's civil nuclear programme, the industry body has recommended that the public sector firm Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), administered by the Department of Atomic Energy, should be split into two entities. While IREL primarily focuses on Thorium mining, CII has suggested that the second entity could pursue other minerals.

The industry group has also mooted making rare earth minerals a part of the 'Make In India' campaign, citing China's 'Made in China 2025' initiative that focuses on new materials, including permanent magnets that are made using rare earth minerals.

China offers state support for the industry.

RBI stays onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The RBI has put a pause on onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services, even as the company said it will have no material impact on its business, according to a filing.

One97 Communications (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand, had proposed to transfer its payment aggregator services to Paytm Payments Services (PPSL) in December 2020 to comply with payment aggregator (PA) guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but the regulator had rejected its application. The company had re-submitted the documents in September 2021.

Investment approval
As per the RBI letter, PPSL is required to 'seek necessary approvals for past downward investment from OCL into PPSL, to comply with FDI guidelines' and 'not onboard new online merchants.'

Paytm said it can resubmit the PA application within 120 calendar days. The company will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.

Murugappa Group mulls ₹1,000-crore investment in EVs via TI Clean Mobility

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Chennai-based Murugappa Group plans to invest ₹800 crore-₹1,000 crore in its electric vehicle (EV) business through its TI Clean Mobility arm, a top official said.

This includes the cost of two acquisitions [a company into electric tractors and another into electric heavy commercial vehicles (HCV)], investments made over three years to foray into EV business, ₹200 crore committed investment for the electric 3-wheeler business and future investment in R&D, cost of land and spending to put up production facilities as well in business development.

"Our cumulative investment in the electric-vehicle business would be to the tune of ₹800 crore to ₹1,000 crore," Kalyan Kumar Paul, MD, TI Clean Mobility Private Ltd., said during an interaction.

"We want to be a significant player in all our three verticals," Mr. Paul said.

Good cash flows
"All the investments will come from the group. We have very good cash flowing in. We should be able to fund this," he added.

"We expect to break

Kalyan Kumar Paul

even by the third year from the start of production."

To have complete focus, TI Clean Mobility has been made a subsidiary of Murugappa Group unit Tube Investments of India (TII).

The company has already introduced its first EV, an electric 3-wheeler for passenger application. The 3-wheeler, to be sold under the brand Montra Electric, is scheduled for delivery in December this year.

"We aspire to be among the top three players [in 3-wheelers] within the first year of product roll-out," Mr. Paul said.

Beginning with the South, the company would have a total dealer base of 100 for the 3-wheeler business. Later, it has plans to enter other markets. He said the introduction of e-tractor and e-HCV would follow the e-3-wheeler. He said the company would eye 10% market share in each of the three verticals.

Sport

Men In Blue need to urgently correct their PowerPlay strategy

Innovation: Washington's ability to adapt to the situation is something other India batters can attempt to emulate. GETTY IMAGES

Press Trust of India
HAMILTON

India will need a better approach from skipper Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill in the PowerPlay overs in the second One-Day International against New Zealand here on Sunday. The Seddon Park is known for being one of the most batting-friendly tracks in New Zealand.

It was largely due to the openers' safety-first approach in the PowerPlay that India failed to rack up a bigger total. And, it was Shreyas Iyer's steady hand and Washington Sundar's brilliant cameo that actually took India past 300.

Pacing the innings
The same approach of building the foundation and leaving the heavy-lifting for the back-end cost India the T20 World Cup.

At the Eden Park on Friday, the Indian pacers bowled way too short. They will need to find a way to counter Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have both been consistent against India over the years in this format.

While Umran Malik was impressive bowling northwards of 145 clicks, Arshdeep Singh, despite his ability to get swing, struggled for pace and Shardul Thakur was erratic.

The toss will be crucial as batting becomes easier at the Seddon Park as the evening progresses. Whether Kuldeep Yadav is tried instead of Yuzvendra Chahal on the bigger ground remains to be seen.

The teams (from):
India: Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Deepak Hooda, Shahbaz Ahmed, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Arshdeep Singh, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik.
New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Finn Allen, Devon Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson.
Match starts at 7 a.m. IST.

Renuka and Yastika do the star turn in India-D's trophy triumph

P.K. Ajith Kumar
RAIPUR

The two women's impact in international cricket has been sudden. So it should come as no surprise that Renuka Singh and Yastika Bhatia could make their presence felt in the final of a major domestic tournament.

Renuka's opening spell and a classy innings from Yastika, who stayed till the end, helped India-D win the Senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy tournament here on Saturday. Chasing India-A's challenging 144 for five, under lights, India-D romped home with with seven wickets and an over to spare.

Yastika, who had made a brilliant 99 not out against India-C in the league phase just a few days ago, once again paced her innings wonderfully well. Her 80 not out (56b, 12x4, 1x6) made the chase look comfortable.

Rewarding campaign: The victorious India-D team with the trophy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The other opener, Jasia Akhter (47, 38b, 3x4, 3x6), also played a crucial role in India-D's well-deserved victory. The pair added 70 in 11 overs, making the job half done.

India-A may have entertained some hopes when India-D lost the wickets of Jemimah Rodrigues and D. Hemalatha within a space of couple of overs, but Yastika and Sushma Verma (13 not out) took their side home.

Earlier, Renuka ensured that India-D could not begin its innings briskly enough. She had Shivali Shinde, who had been batting rather well in the tournament, lbw with just the fourth ball of the match.

Then, in her third over, she ended the promising innings from Disha Kasat. After playing some delectable shots, Disha played a tame shot and was caught at extra-cover.

Opener Nuzhat Parween (50, 43b, 6x4) was now joined by Harleen Deol (61, 48b, 8x4, 1x6) and they put on 95 for the third wicket. That wouldn't be enough for Yastika.

The scores: India-A 144/5 in 20 overs (Nushat Parween 50, Harleen Deol 61, Renuka Singh 3/24) lost to India-D 148/3 in 19 overs (Yastika Bhatia 80 n.o., Jasia Akhter 47).

Australia beats Croatia, makes Davis Cup final

Associated Press
MALAGA

Australia had to fight back twice to reach its first Davis Cup final in 19 years with a 2-1 win over Croatia.

Lleyton Hewitt's team recovered from losing the first singles here on Friday. Then the Australian doubles pair battled back from a set down in the decider. Australia won its 28th and last title in 2003. It has finally got back to the final.

Borna Coric put Croatia ahead beating Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4, 6-3, but Alex de Minaur levelled defeating Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-2. Jordan Thompson and Max Purcell then secured the semifinal win against Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic 6-7(3), 7-5, 6-4.

"I am so proud. Australia has a really rich history in this competition," said Hewitt, who played a record 43 Davis Cup ties for Australia from 1999-2018. "This is what this team is about,," de Minaur said.

Joy unbound: Jordan Thompson, left, and Max Purcell battled back from a set down to take Australia to victory. AP

Hernandez's brace slakes Bengaluru's thirst for goals

Winning performance: Javi Hernandez, centre, scores Bengaluru's opener. FOCUS SPORTS / ISL

Sports Bureau

A Javi Hernandez brace ended Bengaluru FC's five-match winless and four-match goalless run as it picked up a 2-0 win against FC Goa in the Hero Indian Super League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, on Saturday. The Blues also nabbed their first clean sheet since the season opener while handing the Gaurs their first home defeat of the season.

Both sides made a couple of changes to their lineups. FC Goa midfielder Edu Bedia found himself on the bench as Princeton Rebello took his place in the starting XI. The other change for the hosts included Noah Wail Sadaoui as Redeem Tlang dropped to the bench. Alan Costa and Bruno Silva were dropped to the bench for Bengaluru FC as Aleksandar Jovanovic and Prabir Das started the game.

Javi Hernandez broke the deadlock and ended Bengaluru FC's goal drought in the 27th minute. Anwar Ali was closed down by Roy Krishna as he brought the ball out of defence, Krishna put Hernandez through on goal and the Spaniard calmly slotted it past Dheeraj Singh.

In the second half, FC Goa started on the front foot. However, it was Bengaluru FC which doubled its advantage in the 57th minute.

As the Gaurs swarmed forward, the Blues broke on the counter with Udanta Singh, who dinked it through to Hernandez. The Spaniard entered the box, rounded the keeper, and calmly slotted the ball into an empty net.

Goa remained fourth while Bengaluru moved to eighth, three points behind Chennaiyin FC.

The results:
At Margao: FC Goa 0 lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Hernandez 27 & 57).
At Kolkata: ATK Mohun Bagan 1 (Boumous 11) bt Hyderabad FC 0.

BREAKING A DROUGHT

Duke delivers as Australia registers first win at the WC since 2010

Australia only needed to avoid defeat to stay in the World Cup. The Socceroos did more than that in a 1-0 win over Tunisia on Saturday. Mitchell Duke gave Australia the lead midway through the first half (23rd minute) with a header as the team went on to register its first win at the mega event since a victory over Serbia back in 2010.

TIME TO REFOCUS

Croatia can't dwell on the past as Canada test looms large

Croatia, after a 0-0 draw against Morocco in its first match, needs to get it right against Canada on Sunday. There were some positives to take from the opening game, principally in defence, where Croatia was largely untroubled throughout. Canada, however, will be no pushover as it stretched Belgium before losing 0-1 in its opener.

EYEING THE KNOCKOUTS

Confident Japan looks to inflict more misery on Costa Rica

Few would have given Japan much chance of getting out of a group that included Germany and Spain, but a win over Costa Rica on Sunday would leave Hajime Moriyasu's side on the brink of the last 16. For Costa Rica coach Luis Fernando Suarez, rebuilding his side's shattered confidence is the priority.

BRACING UP

Belgium seeks cutting edge against well-marshalled Morocco

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez will be looking for an improved show when the team takes on a resolute Morocco on Sunday. A win will seal a round of 16 spot for the Belgians. Martinez described the 1-0 win over Canada as the "worst technical performance" of his six-year spell in charge but expects a better show from now on.

On-fire Mbappe blasts holder France into the pre-quarters

Denmark puts up a brief fight through Christensen's equaliser, but *Les Bleus*' pace, power and passing prove too sharp

Leading star: Mbappe's second sends France into the knockouts, the first team to progress. AFP

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Kylian Mbappe scored twice, including a late winner, as holder France edged Denmark 2-1 on Saturday to become the first team to reach the last 16 of the World Cup.

A potent French side knew a second victory in as many Group D outings would take it through and it was well worth the lead that Mbappe gave when he scored at Stadium 974 just after the hour mark.

However, Andreas Christensen soon equalised for the Danes and *Les Bleus* needed Mbappe to deliver again in the 86th minute as he turned in Antoine Griezmann's cross to puncture the Danish resistance once and for all.

Having scored four during France's victorious 2018 campaign and one against Australia, Mbappe now has seven goals in nine World Cup appearances.

Didier Deschamps's side now has the luxury of going into its final group game against Tunisia knowing a draw will guarantee it top spot, and even a defeat may not prevent it finishing first.

France was more wasteful in front of goal than against Australia but at least it did not come unstuck against opponents which has caused it problems before.

Deschamps changed three of his back four, with Theo Hernandez at left-back in place of injured elder brother Lucas and Raphael Varane coming in for his first game in over a month.

If Olivier Giroud took the headlines then, here Ousmane Dembele was electric at times on the right, Griezmann excelled in an advanced midfield role, and Mbappe made the difference.

There were some French appeals for a red card in the 19th minute when Mbappe burst onto a beautiful threaded through ball by Griezmann only to be hauled down by Christensen.

The holders' best chances in the first half came from headers by Varane and Adrien Rabiot, but when Mbappe turned away from Joachim Andersen just before the hour mark and accelerated away, it was a sign that a goal was coming.

The result: Group D: France 2 (Mbappe 61 & 86) bt Denmark 1 (Christensen 68).

Group D

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
France (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	-2	3
Denmark	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	-1	1

Q: Qualified | Remaining fixtures: Nov. 30: Australia vs. Denmark; Tunisia vs. France

Poland brings Saudi Arabia crashing down to earth

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

I did it! The relief on Lewandowski's face is palpable after he finally breaks his World Cup hoodoo. AFP

With history in its sight, Saudi Arabia stepped into the Education City Stadium field with an extra spring in its step. But a missed penalty from Salem Al-Dawsari left it disappointed after a 2-0 loss to Poland. A goal down and with a single first-half minute to play, Al-Dawsari, unfortunately, was up against Wojciech Szczesny, who dived to his right to save his 25th penalty. Szczesny was quickly back on his feet to get a fingertip to Mohammed Al-Burayk's crisply hit volley off the rebound.

The penalty came after a VAR check, Krystian Bielik guilty of a light touch on Saleh Al Shehri's trailing ankle inside the box.

The Polish goal, despite the relentless Saudi Arabian pressure, came in the 40th minute. An alive and agile Piotr Zielinski was there in the six-yard box to score the first goal of the game as Robert Lewandowski, deterred by the 'keeper first, chased to keep the ball in play.

The Saudis, till then, had enough chances but the goals never came. In the 13th minute, Mohamed Kanno played a ball to the right and as the cut back came to him a stinging flier followed, grazing Szczesny's fingers to safely sail into the stands.

A sustained spell of possession of patient building around the box brought in a cross from Saud Abdulhamid and Kamil Glik had to rise high to thwart the lurking danger. Poland came close in the 26th minute as Bielik's towering header from a Zielinski corner was bravely butted out from the goal-line by Al-Shehri.

Al-Dawsari had a fortuitous chance to redeem himself when the game restarted, but the captain failed to keep his shot down as a lucky ball fell to him from a penalty box scuffle. As the Saudis pressed forward, more in hope and desperation, the Poles were happy to exploit the open spaces. Arkadiusz Milik first hit the crossbar in the 62nd minute and Lewandoski, eager to score a first Cup goal, managed a weak contact with the calf of his right leg. The ball eluded an alarmed Mohammed Al-Owais but the post, again, was there to save him.

The Barcelona striker finally had his first Cup goal in the 82nd minute as defender Abdulelah Al-Malki made a hash of an innocuous ball with the predator lurking. The ball was stolen and the goal scored.

The result: Group C: Poland 2 (Zielinski 39, Lewandowski 82) bt Saudi Arabia 0.

Kane brings more to the table than just goals, says manager Southgate

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Off-colour: The fact that England skipper and points-man Kane is yet to score has raised eyebrows. GETTY IMAGES

The soaring hopes of a rampaging England bludgeoning every opposition in this World Cup was tempered down on Friday after a goalless stalemate against the USA. The 6-2 opening game triumph over Iran, had soared the expectations of the country's boisterous fans a little too high, but the uninspired display at the Al Bayt Stadium left them a little dispirited.

England still sits atop Group B and a positive result against Wales from the last league game should comfortably see it through, but a return of zero goals from skipper and points-man Harry Kane has further increased the pressure on him.

Listless

A knock on the ankles had cast doubts about his participation, but the captain was there to lead his team into another battle.

The Tottenham No. 9, though, was largely listless, going for 15 first-half minutes without seeing the ball as the game meandered around him. His movements were laboured, touches not clever and England just had five attempts on goal (two on target), failing to create moments of danger inside the USA box with just 14 final third entries down the middle.

His effort in the 10th minute was blocked by Walter Zimmerman and another chance came his way at the very end, but Kane's header from a Luke Shaw freekick was nowhere near the target. Against Iran, too, Kane had 19 touches with just one inside the opposition box – a statistics not too flattering for the team's leader and strike spearhead.

England manager Gareth Southgate, though, gamely defended his captain. "I thought Harry's hold-up play and the headers that he won and his defending in our box were still crucial for the team. So, as is often the way with him, there are other elements to his game rather than the goals that are so important for us," the England manager said.

The England captain – playing centrally – did well to hold on to the balls that came his way, but the layoffs and passes wide to open space and help Raheem Sterling and Bukyo Saka to exploit those gaps were largely absent.

Distraction

Kane travelled to the World Cup with 12 goals from 15 Premier League games, but the controversy surrounding him wearing and then not wearing the 'rainbow armband' has been a distraction both for him and the team. "It was a big game (against Iran) and though we won comfortably the other day, physically it was a demanding game and emotionally too a big game – the first in a World Cup," Southgate said.

England will need Kane to find his range as the knockouts approach. The striker got his first goal only in the pre-quarterfinals against Germany in the postponed Euro 2020 last year and then scored two more as England reached the final. A similar return would make the fans of the Three Lions equally happy.

Group B

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
England	2	1	1	0	4	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	-2	3
USA	2	0	2	0	0	2
Wales	2	0	1	1	-2	1

Remaining fixtures: Nov. 30: Wales vs. England; Iran vs. USA

Germany plots a great escape against silken smooth Spaniards

Reuters
AL RAYYAN

Germany is facing a second consecutive World Cup first-round exit when it takes on Spain on Sunday with coach Hansi Flick working overtime to pick his players up off the floor after their shock 2-1 loss to Japan in their Group E opener.

While most of the discussion prior to its first game had focused on whether Flick would deploy a natural centre forward like Niclas Fuellkrug from the start, Germany's backline has long been a cause for concern.

It has conceded six goals in its last four internationals but now has to find a way to shut out Spain, which fired seven past Costa Rica in their group opener.

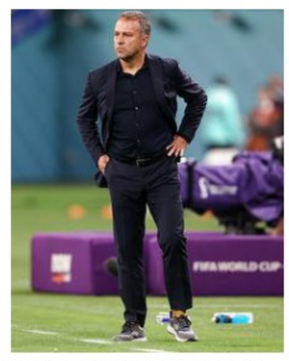
Germany's players, however, must not only process their first ever loss to Japan, they are also under fire back home for their handling of a diversity armband affair after world soccer body FIFA threatened sanctions if they wore it.

Spain, on the other had, has none of the pressure its European counterpart is feeling.

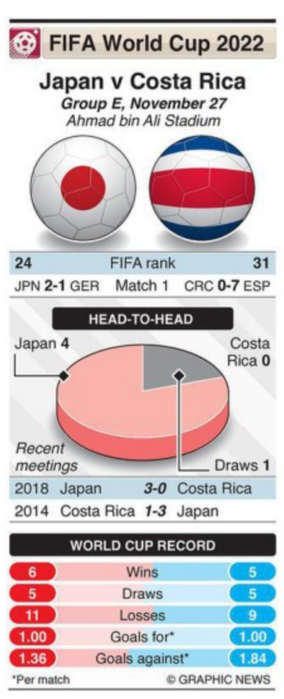
Spain has entered the tournament with a lighter load on its shoulders under coach Luis Enrique and has already set records.

As for the line-up, Luis Enrique has promised changes.

"I don't know who is going to play, but surely we won't repeat the line-up," he said.



Contrasting visage: Enrique will hope for a Spanish encore while Flick will look for change in German fortunes. REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES


FIFA World Cup 2022
Japan v Costa Rica
Group E, November 27
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
24 FIFA rank 31
JPN 2-1 GER Match 1 CRC 0-7 ESP
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Japan 4 Costa Rica 0
Recent meetings Draws 1
2018 Japan 3-0 Costa Rica
2014 Costa Rica 1-3 Japan
WORLD CUP RECORD
6 Wins 5
5 Draws 5
11 Losses 9
1.00 Goals for* 1.00
1.36 Goals against* 1.84
*Per match © GRAPHIC NEWS
KICK-OFF: 3.30 P.M.

INBRIEF

Guman and Ashish on the prowl for U Mumba

Raiders Guman Singh (14 points) and Ashish (13) powered U Mumba to a 49-41 win over Bengal Warriors in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Saturday. U Mumba took a 23-21 lead at half-time and continued to stay ahead in the second half. Maninder Singh (13 points) was the lone warrior for Bengal. Puneri Paltan recorded its fifth win on the trot, defeating Telugu Titans 38-25.

Gurpreet Singh wins 25m standard pistol gold

Olympian Gurpreet Singh won the gold in 25-metre standard pistol in the National shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Shooting Academy in Bhopal on Saturday.

The results: 25m standard pistol: Men: 1. Gurpreet Singh 582; 2. Sameer Gulia 574; 3. Omkar Singh 574.
Junior men: 1. Sameer Gulia, 2. Udhayveer Sidhu 573; 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 572.
Junior women: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 571; 2. Manu Bhaker 565; 3. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 560.
25m sports pistol: Junior men: 1. Mukesh Nelavalli 584; 2. Abhinav Choudhary 581; 3. Akshay Kumar 579.

Chaves, Britto and Aidar deliver for Rajasthan United

Rajasthan United registered a dominant 3-1 win over a listless Sudeva Delhi FC in the I-League in New Delhi on Saturday. Captain Martin Chaves struck in the 15th minute to put United ahead but Sudeva restored parity in the 21st minute through Tetsuaki Misawa. Britto (45+4) put United ahead in first-half injury time before Aidar Mambetaliev completed the scoring in the 86th minute.

Zadran's ton sets up big win for Afghanistan over Lanka

Opener Ibrahim Zadran smashed 106 to set up an emphatic 60-run victory for Afghanistan in the opening One-Day International against Sri Lanka on Friday.

The scores: Afghanistan 294/8 in 50 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 53, Ibrahim Zadran 106, Rahmat Shah 52, Najibullah Zadran 42) bt Sri Lanka 234 in 38 overs (Pathum Nissanka 85, Wanindu Hasaranga 66; Fazalhaq Farooqi 4/49, Gulbadin Naib 3.34). **MoM:** Ibrahim Zadran. **Toss:** Afghanistan.

IRL: Hyderabad Black Birds drivers take the lead

Hyderabad Black Birds took the lead on the first day of the second round of the Indian Racing League (IRL) at the MIC track near Chennai on Saturday. Hyderabad Black Birds, comprising Neel Jani, Akhil Rabindra, Lola Lovinfosse and Anindith Reddy, led from the front on the first day of the Chennai leg.

Aadesh Urs at the helm for Vijay Merchant Trophy

Aadesh Urs will lead Karnataka in the Vijay Merchant under-16 Trophy which commences at Vidarbha on December 1.

The squad:
Aadesh Urs (Capt.), S. Ananth, Arnav Mishra, Siddesh Asalkar, S. Daivik, Aniketh Reddy, Arnavv Sharma, Rishabh Nayak, Akshath Prabhakar, Manikanth Shivanand, Eesa Puthige, Samyak Vellalore, K.A. Tejas, Mohammad Ibrahim, R. Himesh. Coach: Kunal Kapoor.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6.30 a.m.
New Zealand vs India: 2nd ODI, Prime Video, 7 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 2nd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
FIFA World Cup 2022: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Karnataka pacers do a demolition job on Jharkhand to take it into quarters

Samarth and Nikin make short work of the chase after Kushagra and Roy lend some respectability to the opponent's total

HAZARE TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

A well-oiled pace battery set up Karnataka's five-wicket win against Jharkhand on Saturday and set up a quarterfinal clash against Punjab in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Karnataka's pacers justified captain Mayank Agarwal's decision to insert the opposition by bowling out Jharkhand for a below-par 187 at the Narendra Modi Stadium. R. Samarth's fifty at the top (53, 60b, 7x4) and in-form Nikin Jose's unbeaten 63 (93b, 5x4) helped Karnataka overhaul the target with 55 balls to spare.

The victory was set up in the first hour, with the pacers exploiting friendly conditions. Even before Jharkhand had opened its account, Vidhwath Kaverappa swung one that kissed Arnav Sinha's edge and rested in 'keeper B.R. Sharath's gloves.

On the money: Ronit complemented the rest of the pace pack, picking up three wickets.
FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

In the next over, Ronit More accounted for left-hander Utkarsh Singh, the other opener, who poked at one outside off-stump. Veteran Shahbaz Nadeem, promoted to see off the new ball, and captain Virat Singh then played the waiting game until Virat committed harakiri.

The stylish left-hander attempted a lofted on-drive off the last ball of the PowerPlay straight to M. Venkatesh at mid-on. Then Saurabh Tiwary top-edged a swat three overs hence to give Venkatesh his first wicket. Three balls later, Nadeem perished off all-rounder Bhandage to leave Jharkhand reeling at 40 for five.

Kumar Kushagra and Anukul Roy then displayed the best batting exhibition of the day with a 115-run partnership. Kushagra, the batter-wicketkeeper, showcased his prowess to impress selectors watching from the gallery. While he respected the pacers and made use of fuller deliveries on an easing pitch, Kushagra targeted the spin duo of K. Gowtham and Shreyas Gopal.

Venkatesh was rewarded with his short-ball ploy in the 40th over when Kushagra's attempted pull resulted in an edge to Sharath. The tail hardly wagged as Karnataka pacers shared all 10 wickets.

The scores: Jharkhand 187 in 47.5 overs (Kumar Kushagra 74, Anukul Roy 57, Vidhwath Kaverappa 3/20, Ronit More 3/31, M. Venkatesh 3/51) lost to Karnataka 188/5 in 40.5 overs (Nikin Jose 63 n.o., R. Samarth 53).

Mumbai 220 in 48.3 overs (Hardik Tamore 53, Shams Mulani 51, Shivam Mavi 4/41) lost to Uttar Pradesh 221/2 in 45.4 overs (Aryan Juyal 82, Madhav Kaushik 46, Karan Sharma 42 n.o., Priyam Garg 39 n.o.)

Kerala 174 in 47.4 overs (Vinoop Manoharan 62, Auqib Nabi 4/39) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 175/3 in 37.5 overs (Shubham Khajuria 76, Qamran Iqbal 51 retd. hurt).

Jerlin Anika aspires for more after Arjuna Award

BADMINTON

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Being selected from hundreds of athletes for the Arjuna award is an increasingly difficult honour for the elite athletes of the country. The 18-year-old Jerlin Anika, who won three gold medals in badminton in the Deaflympics got the approval of the selection panel for the award, that will be bestowed on her by the President, Droupadi Murmu, on November 30.

The Madurai girl who has been supported by the HCL Foundation from 2019, and coached by P. Saravanan from a young age, aspires to compete along with the regulars, even though her immediate task is to be at her best in the World Deaf Championship in Brazil next year.

Jerlin Anika
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Understandably thrilled to be selected for the Arjuna award, Anika said that it would be a big boost for other para athletes to be able to compete with the regulars.

The HCL Foundation facilitated Anika's travel for international tournaments, providing her sports equipment, nutritional support apart from ensuring her coach Saravanan's travel with her for tournaments.

"Her performance this year has been stupendous. Not many can win nine international golds in as many months. She will need financial and technical support to prepare for competing with regular players", Saravanan said.

"We have reached 27,000 students across the country, including 78 para athletes, to help them prepare for competitions. Jerlin is incredibly special to us, and we will continue to support her", assured Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, vice president and Director of HCL Foundation.

For many, Arjuna award is possibly a culmination of all achievements, but for Anika it will be an inspiration to further excel in the international arena.

Vishwanath, Vanshaj and Devika clinch gold medals

Devika.

Vanshaj.

Vishwanath.

BOXING

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj and Devika Ghorpade lived up to their favourite tag, registering commanding victories to clinch gold medals at the IBA men's and women's Youth World Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain, on Friday.

Vishwanath handed India its first gold thrashing Ronel Suyom of the Philippines without breaking sweat in the men's 48kg final. This came after Bhawna Sharma had bagged the silver in the women's 48kg category, losing 0-5 to Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva.

Ashish (54kg) was the other Indian to finish with a silver medal. He went down 1-4 to Japan's Yuta Sakai.

Devika added a second gold to India's tally, beating England's Lauren Mackie in the women's 52kg. Youth Asian champion Vanshaj wrapped up the day for India making light work of Demur Kajaia of Georgia in the men's 63.5kg.

The results: Men: 48kg: Vishwanath bt Ronel Suyom (Phi); **54kg:** Ashish lost to Yuta Sakai (Jpn); **63.5kg:** Vanshaj bt Demur Kajaia (Geo).
Women: 48kg: Bhawna Sharma lost to Gulsevar Ganieva (Uzb); **52kg:** Devika bt Lauren Mackie (Eng).

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Uday's ton sets up Swastic Union (1)'s win

R. Uday Charan scored a ton (100) as Swastic Union CC (1) posted a 120-run win over Vikram CC in the KSCA (Group I) u-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Swastic Union (1) 241/7 in 50 overs (Kashif Ahmed Ali 30, R. Uday Charan 100, N. Akhil Gowda 4/64) bt Vikram 121 in 39.3 overs (M. Sharan 37).
Lions 243/9 in 50 overs (Ivan Malhotra 27, Dev Sharma 55, Murugesh Baskar 46, N. Ronith 4/46) bt Cavaliers 85 in 38.2 overs (N. Ronith 36 n.o., R. Rohith Reddy 3/22).
Vultures 191/9 in 50 overs (Mihran Abdul Rehman 42, M. Jayan Samyog 41, Krushna V. Rao 30 n.o., Mohammad Rayan 3/40) lost to Young Lions Club 195/5 in 49 overs (Karan Raghavendra 61, Arjun Aravind Potti 84 n.o.).
Social Cricketers 257 in 46.2 overs (R.A. Sriee Krish 33, K. Samarth Vinay Kumar 77, Adarsh Rathod 85) bt FUCC (2) 187/8 in 50 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 92 n.o., Chetan Rangraj 4/47).
Swastic Union (2) 255/9 in 50 overs (M. Assad 88, K. Akhil 67, Eshan Manigandan 3/23, Bhavya Tushar Vunna 3/46) bt Wilson Garden 111 in 46.4 overs (A. Meeth Jain 27, Ahaan Naman Mehta 4/18).
Sir Syed Cricketers 270/5 in 50 overs (Chilukuri Akhil Subhash 58, Charvik 37, R. Shivaraj 79 n.o., Viaan Joshi 55 n.o.) bt Neptune CC 44 in 28.1 overs (Merrick Hubert 3/14).

Alchemy Intl. routs VAS

Alchemy International FA blanked VAS 12-0 in an under-17 match of the KSFA Youth Premier League here on Saturday.

The results: U-17: BYFL bt Roits FA 1-0; Raman SA bt The Sports School 1-0; Alchemy Intl. FA bt VAS FA 12-0. **U-15:** Bangalore Intl. FA bt BSSSS 10-0; YBEFC bt Nakshatra FA 14-3; Alchemy Intl. FA bt Stadium FC 7-0; Bangalore City FC bt Totan FC 6-0; Bangalore Champs FA bt GRK FA 8-0. **U-13:** Nakshatra FA bt YBEFC 10-0; Alchemy Intl. FA bt Samurai Bangalore FA 10-1; Kickstart FC bt BCFC 3-0; Sports Hood FC bt GRK FA 7-0; The Sports School bt BIFA 7-0.

Hat-trick by Royan

Royan scored a hat-trick as Blue Star HC thrashed New Ashoka 8-0 in the KSHA C-division hockey league here on Saturday.

The results: East India 2 (Shiben 13, Lokesh 30) bt Germanite 1 (John Basco 28); Blue Star 8 (Vishnav 8, Joseph 20, Shreyas 22, Franklin 24, Royan 33, 35, 40, Sundar Raj 60) bt New Ashoka 0.

Athletic meet

Bengaluru City University (BCU) will organise its annual inter-collegiate athletic championship on Nov. 28 and 29 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The meet will serve as a trial to select the BCU team for the South West Zone inter-varsity athletics championship to be held in January.

Akashdeep's hat-trick goes in vain as India falls prey to last-minute jitters

INDIA-AUS HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

Akashdeep Singh's hat-trick went in vain as India conceded two late goals to lose 4-5 to Australia in the first of a five-match hockey Test series here on Saturday.

The second match of the series will be played on Sunday.

Australia started on an attacking note and took the lead as early as in the fifth minute with Sharp slotting home past P.R. Sreejesh with his very first touch of the match. Akashdeep equalised in the 11th minute after Hardik Singh made a wonderful interception.

Six minutes into the second quarter, Australia restored its lead, courtesy poor defending and Ephraums made the most of it with a smart deflection into the net. Akashdeep once again levelled scores with a fierce reverse hit in the 27th minute

Splendid show: Akashdeep's brilliance on the turf came to naught in the matter of a minute. GETTY IMAGES

A minute after the change of ends, Harmanpreet gave India the lead for the first time, scoring from a penalty corner.

Off a rebound

In the 41st minute, the Kookaburras secured another penalty corner and Craig scored off a rebound after Sreejesh saved the initial drag-flick. The Aussies continued to press hard and secured a handful of penalty corners but failed to score.

India turned sloppy in the last five minutes as Jarmanpreet Singh got an unnecessary green card, leaving his side a man down. Australia took full advantage and Govers converted a penalty corner with a powerful flick. Akashdeep levelled the scores yet again a minute from the final hooter, but Australia earned two more penalty corners and Govers once again found the net with the second attempt.

The result: Australia 5 (Sharp 5, Ephraums 21, Craig 41, Govers 57, 60) bt India 4 (Akashdeep Singh 10, 27, 59, Harmanpreet 31).

Usha to stand for IOA president's post

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a surprise development, the legendary P.T. Usha on Saturday announced that she will contest for the post of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president when the sports body holds its election on December 10.

Usha, a multiple gold medallists in the Asian Games and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, made the announcement through a tweet.

Warm support

"With the warm support of my Fellow Athletes and National Federations I am humbled and honoured to accept and file for the Nomination of the President Of IOA!," Usha tweeted.

The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ends on Sunday.

Usha, a top sprinter of her times, has also been elected as one of the eight Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) by the Athletes Commission of the IOA.